

















ALFRED R. WELLS, 1850.

JOURNAL  
OF A  
WANDERER;  
BEING  
A RESIDENCE IN INDIA,  
AND  
SIX WEEKS IN NORTH AMERICA.

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Such as the records are,  
Which wand'ring seamen keep,  
Led by their hidden star  
Through the cold deep.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

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CURIOSITY is a failing to which mankind in general, and womankind in particular, are more or less subject ; it came in with the first of our species, and bids fair to continue its dominion till time shall be no more. In many instances, its indulgence approaches almost to a virtue, but in the majority of cases—alas ! for human nature—it degenerates into a vice. There may be, and there are occasions where it is highly commendable to exercise a little curiosity, yet, when that little is made more, curiosity and impertinence are pretty apt to rub shoulders, and may sometimes be mistaken the one for the other.

“ ————— Curiosity !

True, lady, by the roses on those lips,  
Both man and woman would find life a waste,  
But for the cunning of—Curiosity !  
She’s the world’s witch, and thro’ the world she runs,  
The merriest masker underneath the moon.” \*

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\* Croley’s *Pride* shall have a Fall,—*Act IV. Scene I.*

Since this invidious quality, therefore, is one so universal, it will at once cease to be a matter of wonder if I lay the creation of the ensuing pages solely to the charge of—curiosity. But for the spirit of curiosity, engendered, I am fair to confess, by an unlimited perusal of volumes of travels, voyages, and shipwrecks, whilst yet at school, I never should, in all probability, have imbibed a desire to visit foreign climes, and enjoyed the privilege of turning over the pages of the book of human life in all situations, and under every varying aspect. If I am condemned by some for allowing this failing to get the better of me, perhaps others will allow, as a palliative, that my curiosity has been of that character, which may safely be denominated praise-worthy—the more especially as I have endeavoured to convey to others—in an awkward manner, perhaps—the result; indeed, I may say, the very essence of my WANDERINGS.

And now, most cruel reader—I mean you who have just condemned me—I have



a word or two to say to you before we part. It is quite needless for you, I can assure you, to feign a virtue which you do not possess, and hug yourself in the belief that you are more immaculate than your neighbours ; for I can prove, beyond all possibility of a doubt, that you yourself—ay, even you—are at this very moment nurturing within you the very witch whose presence you reprobated so in me ; at this very moment, you feel the craving of curiosity. You wish to know something more than the title-page of my work informs you of. You would know my name, have an account of my birth, parentage, and education, and, in short, be furnished with all particulars regarding me. Now wouldn't you ? Come, confess ! You would ? Then listen ——

And yet, after all, I am apt to consider that it would destroy much of the interest of my book, were I to tell you everything. My name, then, must remain a secret, except to those who are able to find me out by my resemblance to the portrait fronting

the title-page—a thing of some difficulty, I believe, as most people say that they can make neither head nor tail of that head.

Many individuals can remember when their respective mothers were born, but, I must confess, that I am not one of those ; indeed, I do not remember when I was born myself, but I have been frequently told that that great event came off somewhere about the commencement of the present century. My age is, therefore, wrapt in mystery.

The first great event of my life was on the occasion of my father purchasing me a go-cart ; I was then somewhere about two years of age, and wore a bib-and-tucker, which was a fashionable wear in those days, but went out of the world in the company of bag-wigs, ladies' trains, square-toed shoes, and knee-breeches. I was rather inclined to be sentimental then, and when my little cart met with an accident which shortened its sojourn upon earth, I cried most lustily, not for the value of the article, but for the affection I bore it.—“ I almost loved

it like a living thing.”—And this was my first lesson in the instability of worldly affairs.

Shortly after this a deep impression was made on my youthful mind, by the death of a young bird. I had placed it in a hole in the earth, and covered the mouth of the hole with a stone, and left it there for several hours. When I returned, I found the bird cold and stiff. I took it home, and asked why it was so changed, and when it would awaken. I was told that it was dead, that it would awake no more, and that I would some day die also, and become as cold and rigid as the poor bird. And this was my first lesson in the frailty of human life.

My Father was a merchant in Edinburgh ; and, perhaps, I ought not to pass over in silence one act of his life, which reflects much credit on his character. Through unforeseen losses, a few years after he commenced business, he got into difficulties, and failed ; he paid thirteen shillings in the pound, and received a

discharge from his creditors. He resolved, however if Providence prospered his undertakings, to pay them the full amount of what he owed them. So, many years afterwards, when his failure had been quite forgotten, he brought his old ledger to light, and, writing to each creditor separately, desired them to call, at different times, at his shop in Bank-Street, and receive their money. He seemed to wish to repay them by stealth, looking only to the approval of God and his own conscience.

I had been abroad some short time when this event came to my knowledge, and, in the course of my travels, I had witnessed “the oppressor’s wrong, the proud man’s contumely,” I had seen vice at a premium, and virtue at a discount. I had seen honour and honesty alike despised, and like other men who but look on the dark side of the picture, I had begun to form a gloomy estimate of this world’s worth. Its hollow-heartedness had chafed me, its falsehood had filled me with disgust. It was

then that this tale of a true heart was told me,—then I learned the joyful tidings, that honesty had not quite departed, that honour was still something more than a name.

I have crossed many seas, I have traversed many climes. I have smoked my hookah with the Hindoo, I have feasted on frogs with the French, I have drank Sherbet with the Turk, and I have wrung the hand of the Red Indian in the backwoods of America. I am now returned to rest my weary bones in the land of my birth, for my experience has taught me the lesson, that “home, after all, is the best place on earth.” In spite of all our efforts, the heart still will cling to the spot of its earliest associations.

In the midst of all my wanderings, there is one precious little volume, that I have carefully preserved above all others. It is a copy of the Holy Bible, doubly dear to me from the circumstance of its having been the parting gift of one who is now no more, when, at my earnest desire, I was

sent to push my fortune in the world. On the morning of my departure, my step-mother, who was more than a mother to me, took me into her room, and, after giving me her blessing, presented me with this book. The good creature besought me, with tears in her eyes, to read a portion of the sacred volume daily. She said, “you will always find that you have a friend there to guide and direct your footsteps.” Often have her words recurred to me, and I must take credit to myself for having acted up to her advice, even at times and in places where Religion was scoffed at, and where the Scriptures were despised.

But I grow tedious, and I know there are very few of my readers who will make allowances for the garrulity of an old fellow, whose chief delight now lies in recalling to his memory the greenest spots on the desart of his existence.

JOURNAL  
OF A  
WANDERER.

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PART I.  
VOYAGE TO BENGAL,  
AND  
RESIDENCE IN INDIA.

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CHAPTER I.

“ Adieu, adieu, my native shore  
Fades o’er the waters blue,  
The night winds sigh, the breakers roar,  
And shrieks the wild sea-mew.”

---

I LEFT Edinburgh on the 16th March 181—, and embarked at Leith, on board the Smack Matchless for London.

It was the custom in the Leith smacks in those days to stow two cabin passengers into one bed, and I had the misfortune to be coupled with an uncommon large brewer, who, being constantly sick, lay the whole passage in bed, to my great annoyance.

We had a merry set of passengers ; the table was cleared away, and we had a dance in the cabin every night. Among the passengers were two young ladies, who, on the vessel's arrival at Downe's wharf, went ashore promising to call back for their trunks, and pay their passage, but they were never more heard of ; the trunks, when opened, were found to contain stones carefully covered with matting and old rags.

On the 15th April I joined the ———, bound to Bengal. She was lying at Gravesend, and I went down by one of the Gravesend boats.

We sailed from Gravesend on the 11th May, and on the 14th, at 1 P. M., we shortened sail and hove to in the Downs, when an officer came on board from the Admiral and mustered the crew ; but as we were outward bound he did not impress any of our men ; his object in paying us a visit was to look after deserters. At  $\frac{1}{4}$  past 5 P. M. we anchored at St. Helens in seven fathoms water, off shore about three miles.

15th May. At 9 A. M. we weighed and made sail, and at 1 P. M. we anchored at the Mother Bank, and moored ship, where we lay waiting for a fair wind.

21st May. Two of the seamen were flogged for desertion. These men are the first I have seen flog-



ged, and really the torture and mangling inflicted upon their backs almost made me sick : the boat-swain, a strong heavy man, gave each stroke of the cat with all the force he could exert, and before they had received a dozen lashes each, the poor men's backs were mangled in the same way as if they had been cut with a cross saw ; they roared for mercy at every stroke, alternately, to the Lord God Almighty and the Captain of the ship. As soon as they had received their punishment they were cut from the gratings, and the doctor's mate attended to dress their wounds.

28th June. At 2 P.M. the cabin passengers came on board. Notwithstanding the bustle and excitement of departure, it was evident that a gloom hung over their minds ; the ladies were hoisted up on deck in a chair, half dead with alarm. Then came the last farewell to those friends who had accompanied them on board, which was in general followed by a flood of tears, when they thought they had severed the last link that bound them to home ; for however bitter we may feel the pang of separating from friends, when we go on board, it is not till our *last* friend leaves us that we feel the utter desolation of being alone and friendless in the wide world.

1st July. At day-light, signal was made to

unmoor. Accordingly, at 10 A. M. we unmoored and weighed, and stood out to sea in company with His Majesty's ship P——, and several of the Company's ships.

2d July. Thick hazy weather. The ship resembles a farm yard; we have two cows on board, we have also more than a hundred sheep, about a hundred dozen of fowls, ducks and geese innumerable, lots of pigs and goats, and myriads of rats.

We are awakened in the morning with the crowing of the cocks, and the gabbling of the ducks and geese, and the poor cows keep lowing all day for the green fields they have left behind them.

The butcher acts as shepherd to the sheep, he feeds them with hay and water, and in the end cuts their throat: the way he gives them the water is curious, he makes them drink it out of a bottle, and in that way none of the water is spilt.

8th July. This is my first Sunday at sea, and we are all busy dressing ourselves to appear on deck; the barber has a busy time of it shaving the men. It is a fine sight to see the hands all rigged out in blue jackets, duck trousers, straw hats, and black silk handkerchiefs tied loose round their necks, with their manly weather-beaten faces shaded by long curls on either side, and their pig-

tails hanging in ties half way down their backs. The crew were mustered at noon, and afterwards divine service was performed. The purser officiated as clerk, and read a sermon. This is a day of relaxation to the seamen, as no work is done, except the necessary trimming of the sails; the old tars may be seen reclining on the booms with well-worn Bibles in their hands, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, or *Baxter's Saint's Rest*.

11th July. We are now in sight of the Island of Madeira; it appears from the sea to be a delightful spot. The bright sky, the mild climate, and the refreshing trade wind, seem to mark it out as a haven for invalids: many a consumptive patient has been snatched from the jaws of death by visiting this favoured shore, and many invalids, who were sent too late, are now sleeping the sleep of death on this beautiful Island.

19th July. Light trade wind, and fine weather. The passengers have recovered from sea-sickness, and appear to be reconciled to the new element they have embarked on: they spend much of their time in walking the quarter deck, or listlessly leaning over the sides of the vessel: during the heat of the day they retire to their cabins and amuse themselves with reading, music, cards, backgammon, chess, and the thousand and one ingeni-

ous little pleasantries invented for the annihilation of "the enemy," by the idle and the voluptuous.

20th July. The ship is surrounded with flying fish. Those beautiful fish dart out of the water and skim along the surface of the waves for about a hundred yards, wetting their wings on the crest of the waves as they fly, and then drop into the water; those fish are sadly persecuted by the dolphin and albacore, and it is to enable them to escape that Providence has supplied them with wings.

Sunday, 22d July. I have often thought that a Sabbath spent in the country, in the service of God, gives us a foretaste of the Sabbath in heaven; the stillness of all surrounding objects fits the mind to soar far above the earth; but a Sabbath at sea inspires still holier thoughts and feelings;

"For he who fain would know how warm  
The soul's appeal to God may be,  
From friends and native land should turn  
A wanderer on the faithless sea."

At noon the bell rung, and we collected in our rude Chapel for worship. It is truly affecting to think, that at the same time we are engaged in the sacred service, our beloved relations will also be pouring out their hearts to God in our own dear homes, and earnestly supplicating at the throne of grace for those who are far separated from

them, perhaps for ever. It is very impressive to hear the deep imploring tones of prayer rise heavenward over the foaming surge, while the fragile bark is tossed by the great billows, and no refuge for us to flee to, but to cast our hope and our anchor on the Rock of Ages.

We have passed several Nautili or Portuguese men-of-war; they are of a pink colour, and resemble a ship in miniature; they look very beautiful and interesting, with their sails set, scudding away before the breeze.

1st August. One of our passengers was told that the equinoctial line could be seen from the main shrouds, and his curiosity led him to clamber up the rigging, and while he was straining his eyes in the direction pointed out, he was seized by two of the seamen, and tied by the legs to the shrouds, until he should pay his footing, in the shape of a bottle of rum, which is an ancient privilege of the sailors. We are now under the line, it is what is called a dead calm: the heat is dreadful and the sails are flapping sluggishly against the masts, and the ship is rolling lazily from side to side, and the sea resembles a looking-glass, in the bosom of which the masts and ropes are all clearly reflected.

This morning Neptune hailed the ship, and

intimated that he would visit us after breakfast, and pay his particular respects to all those who had never passed the line before; accordingly, about 11 A. M., one of the boatswain's mates, representing Neptune, dressed up with skins and a trident, and seated in his car, covered with flags, was drawn along the deck towards the cuddy door, accompanied by his barber and other attendants, dressed in the most grotesque manner. The operation of introducing Neptune's new friends to him took place at the larboard gangway, where a large tub was placed full of salt water: Neptune's clerk called out the names singly, and instantly messengers flew to summon the individual into his presence. He is then seated on a plank over the tub, and is asked what countryman he is, and on opening his mouth to answer, a tar brush is thrust into it. After this the barber commences the lathering process by smearing his chin with tar. The razor is an old iron hoop, notched in the edge, and with this instrument the chin is scraped; and then comes the finalé, the plank is suddenly withdrawn from under him, and down he plumps into the tub of water, and at the same time the contents of a dozen buckets of water are soused over him; after which he is allowed to escape.

I had long looked forward to the shaving with

dread. I contrived, however, to bribe the barber with two bottles of rum, and he hardly touched me with the razor, and as for the ducking, I did not much mind it; some of the men were pretty severely handled, but the sport passed over in good humour, the men were indulged with an extra quantity of liquor to drink the health of Neptune's new friends.

3d September. A fresh gale from the S.W. We have seen a great many Mother Carey's chickens flying close to the stern of the vessel. The sailors regard the stormy petrel as a bird of peculiar interest; they believe that those birds follow ships for the purpose of picking up the souls of the seamen that are lost in tempests, and carrying them to the bosom of the Creator. They also believe that when the petrel flies on board, and approaches near any of them, that it is an intimation to the individual of his death.

The great power of wing of the petrel enables it to sweep over the ocean at any distance from land, and even to weather the most tempestuous winds, while, with its webbed feet and light form, it can actually walk upon the billows with as much ease as a sparrow can hop along a garden walk. "It is indeed an interesting sight," says Wilson, "to observe these little birds in a gale coursing

over the waves, down the valleys, and up the ascents of the foaming surf that threaten to burst over their heads, sweeping along the hollow troughs of the sea as in a sheltered valley, and again mounting with the rising billow, and just above its surface, occasionally drooping their feet, which, striking the water, throw them up again with additional force, sometimes leaping with both legs on the surface of the roughest waves for several yards at a time. Meanwhile they continue coursing from side to side of the ship's wake, making excursions far and wide to the right and to the left, now a great way a-head, and now shooting astern for several hundred yards, returning again to the ship as if it was all the while stationary, though perhaps running at the rate of ten miles an hour."

"The petrels are nocturnal birds; when therefore they are seen flying about and feeding by day, the fact appears to indicate that they have been driven from their usual quarters by a storm; and hence perhaps arose the association of the bird with the tempest. The popular opinion among sailors that the petrels carry their eggs under their wings, to hatch them, is no less unfounded than the fancy of them causing storms: it is indeed physically impossible. On the contrary, the petrels have



been ascertained to breed on rocky shores, in numerous communities, like the bank swallow, making their nests in the holes and cavities of the rocks above the sea, returning to feed their young only during the night, with the superabundant oily food from their stomachs. The quantity of this oily matter is so considerable, that in the Faro Isles they use petrels for candles, with no other preparation than drawing a wick through the bodies of the birds from the mouth to the rump."

4th Sept. It is blowing a fresh gale of wind, the ship rolling at times, gunnels in, and shipping a vast deal of water. The ship is surrounded with albatrosses; we have caught several of them with fish hooks, baited with fat pork, and attached to a line which we threw over the stern, and which they greedily seized, and by hauling in the line these large birds flew into our arms, the torture of the hook in their mouths causing them to yield to the slightest pull. Their flesh was so rank and fishy that we could not use it, but we stuffed the skins to take home as curiosities; some of the largest birds measured, from tip to tip of their wings, nearly eleven feet.

This evening, the sun set surrounded with copper-coloured clouds, which cast a glare on the

faces of those on deck, and gave to their countenances an unearthly appearance.

The barometer fell suddenly unusually low; black clouds rolled in thick masses quickly over the horizon, and left us in utter darkness, relieved only by vivid flashes of lightning, accompanied with tremendous bursts of thunder. Balls of fire were seen flitting about on the main-top-sail yard, and in the fore-top, which tended greatly to alarm the superstitious seamen. At 10 P. M. it blew a tremendous hurricane. It is necessary to be at sea in a gale of wind to understand the beautiful language of the psalmist: "They that go down to the sea in ships, and do business in the mighty waters, they see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep."

The roaring of the wind drowned the hoarse voices of the men, although at times the shrill voice of the Captain might be heard mid a momentary lull, when the wind seemed to be drawing her breath for another blast, or, as one of my nautical friends used to say, when the devil was taking a rest from blowing the bellows. The sea rose higher and higher in awful grandeur, and each mighty billow, as it rolled onwards, threatened to engulf the reeling vessel.

5th October. The fury of the gale has now abated, but the port-holes are still barred in, and the cabin is very dreary, being only lightened by the pale glimmer of a dirty dipped tallow candle, twelve in the pound, the light of which is only sufficient to make darkness visible. I cannot conceive any place more gloomy than a cabin at sea in bad weather.

31st October. At 5 P. M. we were visited with a severe squall, accompanied with thunder and lightning; the rain fell in torrents, and the ship was laid over almost on her beam ends. The top sails and top-gallant sails were clewed up in time to save our masts. It is easy to know by the appearance of the sky when a squall is brewing—the sailors have a saying :

“ If the rain’s before the wind,  
’Tis time to take the top sails in ;  
If the wind’s before the rain,  
Hoist your top sails up again.”

6th November. We have now been confined for more than three months to salt junk, as dry as a rope-yarn, and biscuits, which are so old that they are become full of maggots; and the water is in such a state of decomposition, that, on applying a lighted candle to the bung-hole of a cask newly opened, the hydrogen gas escapes in such

quantities as to take fire like gunpowder. To add to our miseries, the ship is infested with rats ; and it frequently happens, that, in the morning, we find in the butt, among our daily supply of water, six or eight dead rats—the reptiles, in attempting to steal the water during the night, fall in and are drowned.

8th November. Light variable winds and pleasant weather. At day light saw the land of India distant about 10 leagues. At 7 A. M. a strange sail appeared in sight, bearing down towards us, which proved to be an Indiaman, who joined us at noon. Particular attention has been paid to practising the men in the exercise of the great guns and small arms, as it is very likely we may have to try our strength with the enemy. The last occasion when the Company's ships were engaged in action was on the 15th Feb. 1805. Sixteen sail of the Company's ships, homeward bound from China, under the command of Commodore Dance, fell in with a French squadron under Admiral Linois, near the Straits of Malacca. The Company's vessels formed in order of battle, and engaged, the van being led by Captain Timins of the Royal George, who engaged the Admiral's ship, a vessel of 80 guns, and received no less than 60 shot in his hull and rigging.

The French, finding themselves so warmly received, set all sail and fairly ran away, and left the Company's ships in quiet possession of the field. Commodore Dance was knighted on his return home, and the Captains of the other vessels had handsome swords presented to them by the East India Company for their gallant conduct.

10th November. We have on board an old Quarter-master; he has sailed in the ship since she was first afloat, and is looked upon by all on board as a privileged person. He has no failing, except sometimes taking an extra glass. He has been five times to India and China in the ship. He was taken ill of dysentery a few days ago, and is now in a dangerous state. He has read much of his Bible for two days past; he says he knows he is dying, and is quite resigned to die on board: it is the only home he has known for ten years, but he says he would have liked better if it had been the will of God that he had been spared till the ship reached Bengal, that he might have been buried on shore, and not thrown overboard to the sharks. It is deeply affecting to gaze on his storm-beaten countenance, furrowed with many a hard gale, and to see him dying among strangers, far from home and kindred. The poor man died at 7 P. M.,

“ And there he lay in his coarse cold shroud,  
And strangers were round the coffinless ;  
Not a kinsman was seen among that crowd,  
Not an eye to weep or a lip to bless.”

11th November. Squally weather ; at 3 A. M. two of the best seamen in the ship fell overboard. They were sent out by the third mate to stow the jib, and the sail flapping with the wind knocked them both overboard. The ship went right over one of them, and he was never seen again ; but William Chalmers was observed close to the ship, and he gave a most unearthly yell as the vessel passed him ; the life buoy was cut a drift, and fell within a few yards of him ; the ship was hove to, and a boat lowered down, which pulled in the supposed direction, but could not see either the life buoy or him. Three blue lights were burned to direct the boat back to the ship which returned without success. There can be little doubt but one of the men reached the buoy. The ship sailed away and left him alone on the wide sea. It is dreadful to think how many dismal nights and scorching days he may have passed on the life buoy before death put an end to his sufferings. The spot where he was left abounded with sharks, and in all probability he whom “ wind and waters spared,” fell a prey to the remorseless jaws of these rapacious monsters.

19th November. Reached the Sand heads, when the Pilot came on board and took charge of the ship; and on the 23d we anchored at Saugor Roads, about three miles off shore.

Saugor island is said at one time to have been extremely populous, ruins of brick buildings have been found in many parts of the Island, buried under the jungle, but the history of its former inhabitants is lost in oblivion. A great fair takes place here annually, at which the poor Hindoos offer up human sacrifices to the tigers and alligators. To what a dreadful state must superstition have goaded on the human mind before a mother will consent to throw her living child into the jaws of an alligator!

## CHAPTER II.

'Tis the clime of the east, 'tis the land of the sun,  
Can he smile on such deeds as his children have done?  
Oh! wild as the accents of lover's farewell,  
Are the hearts which they bear, and the tales which they tell.

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I HAD not been many days at Saugor before I was seized with a slow intermitting fever; but so soon as I was out of danger I went up to Calcutta.

Calcutta is situated on the banks of the river Hoogly, and contains four or five hundred thousand inhabitants. The villages in the neighbourhood are so populous, that within twenty miles round Calcutta there are about two million of inhabitants. The domestic habits of the wealthy natives are costly and extravagant; their houses



have generally an open court in the centre of the building, similar to the Palace of Holyrood-house in Scotland, and many of them display fine specimens of Hindoo architecture. The principal rooms are furnished with carpets from Brussels, and rugs from Persia, where these luxurious Nabobs love to repose on ottomans and couches of the richest damask. Pelicans abound here; they are very tame in consequence of not being molested. Government having taken them under its protection, a severe fine is exacted as a penalty for shooting one of them. At night they may be seen roosting on the tops of the church steeples, or any high building. When I first saw them stalking about on the ground, I took them for decrepit old men; they feed on every kind of offal, and on the dead bodies of the Hindoos, and act the part of scavengers, gobbling up all kinds of filth. One of the most disgusting sights to be seen here is the number of dead bodies floating in the river; and what serves to render it truly repulsive, is, that those bodies are generally covered with vultures and crows feeding on them as they are borne away with the tide. I pass almost every day where the *Black Hole* once stood; a handsome monument is erected on the site. I had read when at school of the sufferings of the victims who in vain

called to the remorseless tyrant for deliverance. Since then, what a change has been wrought in the power of the British in India—their houses in Garden Reach, like gorgeous palaces, extending for two or three miles along the banks of the river—the Government House, a palace fit for the city of palaces—the mansions of the civil servants of the Company vying with each other in pomp and splendour, and the public offices built in a style of great magnificence, enable us to form some idea of the wealth of the Europeans, but nothing can display the power of Great Britain more than her immense dominions in the East; we have here an empire of one hundred million of inhabitants, governed by a few thousand adventurers from a small island situated at a remote distance. It is only to be accounted for by the peaceable disposition of the natives, the total absence of patriotism in their character, and their habits being decidedly agricultural and unwarlike.

I attended a nautch one night given by a rich native; the principal attraction was the dancing girls; they were certainly beautiful—and their languid motions as they moved along in the dance, and the beautiful proportions of their delicate limbs, which the thin muslin dress shewed off to

great advantage, tended much to heighten the effect. These dancing girls are chosen only for their beauty : modesty or virtue being no part of their profession, it is not expected from them.

During a ramble through Calcutta, I fell in with a marriage-procession of two young natives of rank ; the procession consisted of people carrying flowers and sweetmeats, and of Indians riding on beautiful Arabian horses. The procession took a long time to pass through the crowds collected to witness it. At length came the bride and the bridegroom, both in the same palanquin. They were profusely adorned with gold and jewels, and fine linen. They were only about six years of age, and they looked quite bewildered with the noise from the multitude of human voices, and the tom-toms around them, which was absolutely deafening. I am told many of the wealthy natives spend the half of their fortune on the marriage-festival of their children.

Two sons of the celebrated Tippoo were pointed out to me at an auction ; they have pensions from our government to support them ; they are handsome, bold-looking young men, in the prime of life. The cruel character of their father gave them an unusual interest in my eyes, and brought to my recollection his favourite mechanical tyger, which,

after the taking of Seringapatam, was presented to his Britannic Majesty, and of which the following is a correct description. “ This piece of mechanism represents a royal tyger in the act of devouring a prostrate European. There are some barrels in imitation of an organ within the body of the tyger, and a row of keys of natural notes. The sounds produced by the organ are intended to resemble the cries of a person in distress, intermixed with the roar of a tyger. The machinery is so contrived that while the organ is playing, the hand of the European is often lifted up to express his helpless and deplorable condition.” The Sultan used, in his hours of relaxation, to amuse himself frequently by a sight of this toy—a fit amusement for the tyrant, who was often heard to say, that, in this world, he would rather live two days like a tyger than two hundred years like a sheep.

Billiards is a favourite game at Calcutta; it is a game peculiarly adapted for a warm climate, being an in-door amusement, and one in which moderate exercise is taken, but it would be well if this game was restricted to six days in the week; I am sorry to say it is often indulged in on the sabbath-day.

Thick fogs are common here at sunrise, caused

by the vapoury exhalation which arises from the river and numerous tanks in the neighbourhood; and sometimes the vapour keeps very close to the earth, so as to envelope in thick mist every thing on and within six or eight feet of the earth's surface, but leaves the masts of vessels, high houses, and trees, quite clear; it has a most singular effect to the beholder, and looks from an eminence as if an inundation had spread over the city and covered it up.

Being appointed superintendent of an Indigo Factory at Commercolly, about 120 miles in the interior, I took farewell of my friends at Calcutta, and in three days I was ready to start up the country. Accordingly, having hired a boat with a bamboo cover, and purchased some furniture and crockery-ware, I embarked on the 8th October. I reached Serampore that evening, where I landed for an hour; it is a Danish settlement; the town is built near the side of the river, and a line of houses front the river, from which there is a fine view, comprising not only the river but also Barrackpore, with the pleasure-grounds on the opposite side.

9th December. As I pass up the river, every few miles I come to a ghaut, or watering-place, where the Hindoo damsels assemble to perform their ablutions. I think that these groups form

the most picturesque scenes in India. There you behold the beautiful forms of the Hindoo girls standing up to their middle in the water and perfectly naked. However delicate and modest they are on other occasions in covering their breasts, the moment they step into the water it is all forgotten by both old and young. Before coming out of the water, they cover themselves with their wet cotton dresses, fill their pitchers with water, which they place on their heads, supporting them with the right hand, and, with their children, if they have any, sitting astride on their hips, they walk home to their huts.

10th December. The country, on both sides of the river, is low and flat, and far from being very picturesque. At 10 A. M., as I passed a ghaut, I saw an old man lying among the mud; he appeared to be almost dead, and looked the very image of despair. He had been left there to die by his friends. The fiery sun was scorching the old man's brain. I saw a jackal and several vultures lurking in the neighbourhood, anxiously waiting till his death-struggles were over that they might begin their repast on the body.

11th December. The boat is dragged up the river by the boatmen on shore, by means of a tracking-rope fastened to the mast head. They

travel, as near as I can guess, about 20 miles a-day, and the boat is usually brought to before sunset, and made fast to the banks of the river. The men then go on shore to cook their victuals, which is the only meal they take in the 24 hours. They dig a hole in the ground, in which they kindle a fire, and boil their rice ; and when it is ready they form a circle round the rice, carefully observing that no unclean thing or person approaches too near them while they are eating. They have no plates or dishes, knives or forks, the plantain leaf answers for plates, and with their right hand they carry the food to their mouth. It is their practice to throw the food into their mouths so as not to touch the mouth with the hand. They seem to enjoy their meal very much. I observe, when they commence eating, that their bellies form a concave arch, but when they have finished they assume the convex, making the skin appear as tight as a drum.

12th December. The river presents a lively scene, which is ever varying : elegant budgerows, with their green venetian blinds, innumerable paunchways, and large boats filled with silk, indigo, and rice, are passing down the river from the interior to Calcutta. Opposite the native villages, on the margin of the river, are seen crowds of

friends collected round the funeral piles of the dead. I can see the fire slowly consuming the bodies, while the friends look on in silence till they are reduced to ashes. Many of the Hindoos are so poor that they have no money to procure firewood wherewith to burn the bodies of their dead relatives ; these bodies are therefore carried, at low-water, to the margin of the river, and left there to be carried away by the next tide, and thus numerous half-rotten carcases are always floating about.

14th December. At sunset, when the dandies brought the boat to the land and secured it, the Manjee of the boat came up and asked me to fire off my gun to frighten the decoits, from whom he apprehended danger. He told me that these decoits had a great dread of fire-arms, and that the report of my gun would keep them off during the night. I did as he desired me, and I reloaded the gun and placed it in the bed beside me. I put a pair of loaded pistols and a dirk below my pillow, resolving to pepper them well if they made an attack upon the boat. The Manjee seemed to have an extreme horror at the decoits, whom he described as bands of the most reckless villains on the face of the earth.

15th December. The superstition of the Hin-



doos is almost beyond belief. To-day I saw a Faquir who had held his arm raised above his head until it had become fixed and immoveable in that position ; and he had clenched his hand so firmly for such a length of time, that the nails had pierced the palm of the hand, till they came through at the back. The natives appear all to live in villages ; this was rendered necessary as a precaution against the freebooters, who ravaged the country in former times, when it was under the dominion of the native princes, and the custom is still kept up, so that a solitary habitation is seldom seen.

18th December. I reached Commercolly at an early hour, and waited on Mr Williams, to whom I delivered a letter from the house of Messrs Macintosh & Co. of Calcutta. He gave me some instructions regarding the management of the factory. I left Commercolly at 10 A.M., and by next morning I arrived at MUNSITPORE, and took possession of my house. It consists of two stories, built of brick, and covered over with plaster, called chunam, which has a fine effect, looking, at a distance, like white marble. I carried a letter from my employer to the Goremaster, or head native at the factory, which I forwarded to him, and he immediately attended at my house ; and, after making the usual number of salaams, he offered me a piece of money

as a present, which I thought singular at the time, but I afterwards learned that it is the invariable custom of the natives, when introduced to their superiors, not to come before them empty-handed, but always to offer a present. The salaam, which is a very graceful mode of salutation, is performed by lifting the fingers of the open right hand to the forehead, and bowing the head at the same time.

20th December. I have had an interview with several of the factory servants—they all show me the greatest respect; they leave their shoes at the outer door, and walk up stairs and into the great hall barefooted. On entering, each stoops down and touches the ground with his right hand, and then brings it to his brow. This is performed three times over, signifying thereby that they have prostrated themselves before me three times. One of the ryots, or cultivators of the ground, when introduced, seemed dreadfully frightened; he was shaking with fear, and instead of the usual salaams, he prostrated himself all his length on the floor, and it was with difficulty I could get him to assume an erect position. I was told that I was the first white person he had ever come in contact with.

22d December. The fawning and cringing manner of the natives exceeds any thing I could have expected. I took a ride this morning be-

tween 6 and 8 o'clock over the indigo grounds, and all the natives I passed on the road stooped with their heads to the earth, until I passed them. The females ran and hid themselves at my approach. A native, who came to ask a favour, commenced kissing my foot until I ordered him off. I have hired my establishment of household servants. I have a steward, a cook, two lacqueys, a gardener, a cow boy, and a chamber-maid. I am allowed in addition by my employer a chokeedar, or watchman, and two ostlers, making my compliment of servants amount to ten individuals, most of whom are Mahometans.

2d January. I was walking over a ploughed field this morning when I nearly stepped upon a snake. It was the first snake I had met with in the fields. I called up one of the natives, who told me it was a cobra de capello, or hooded snake, which is one of the most venomous snakes in all India. The reptile was asleep: my servant got a long piece of bamboo and struck it over the head until he killed it; when it received the first blow it raised its hood, which was marked black and white, something like spectacles in appearance; it hissed and thrust out its tongue, and made a dart in the direction in which I stood.

6th January. The timidity of a Hindoo girl, used from her infancy to live sequestered in her native village, is excessive. I came accidentally upon one of them to-day, while she was engaged grinding corn ; she had cast off the cotton drapery from her breasts and shoulders, and as her back was towards me, I was close upon her before she observed me ; she had evidently never seen a white face before, for she fixed her dark eyes upon me for an instant, and then bounded into the jungle like a hunted deer, scarcely touching the ground with her delicate feet.

### CHAPTER III.

“ Those poisonous fields with rank luxuriance crown’d,  
Where the dark scorpion gathers death around :  
Where, at each step, the stranger fears to wake  
The rattling terrors of the vengeful snake.”

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10th January. The servants all leave the house as soon as I go to bed, which is generally about nine o'clock : the only person near is the Chokeedar, whose duty it is to watch at the door during the night. Sleep rarely visits my couch till midnight : the insufferable heat, and the buzzing of the musquitoes, together with a combination of dismal sounds, among which may be mentioned the croaking of frogs, the crying of jackals, the mournful howling of a thousand Pariah dogs, and the flapping of the wings of the bats and owls, which nightly fly round the roof of my bedchamber, all

conspire to keep me awake. At 4 P. M. a Faquir, nearly naked, came to the door and asked alms; he was covered over with ashes, and a rope coiled round his waist; his hair was matted in locks over his shoulders; he appeared to have an insolent air, and when I refused to give him any thing, went away muttering a curse between his teeth.

25th January. A great many Brahminee Bulls infest the country, and are dangerous to meet on the road, as they are sometimes very furious. Those bulls are turned loose by the Hindoos. When a Hindoo of a high caste dies, it is the custom for his descendants to turn loose one of those animals to bear away, as they allege, the sins of the deceased. They allow them to wander wherever they choose; and many of them are very old. When a Hindoo loses caste, he is said to be virtually dead; he is dead in the affections of his relatives, and he is dead in law, for the next heir succeeds to his property, as if he were actually dead. Under such a state of things, it is not surprising that beautiful young widows offer themselves up as a sacrifice to be burned on the funeral-pile of their deceased husbands, rather than drag out a miserable life in a state of hopeless degradation.

7th February. My cook did not make his appearance to prepare breakfast. I sent to inquire

the reason, and learned that the poor fellow had lost his wife. A cobra de capello had crept into the mat where he and his wife were sleeping, and bit her on the cheek; she only survived a few hours. This is not an uncommon occurrence here; the poor natives are more liable to be bitten by the snakes than Europeans, as, from their requiring to be abroad on errands after nightfall, they often tread upon them in the dark. These reptiles are consequently a constant source of terror and annoyance to them.

25th February. I have heard from the natives a fearful account of gangs of murderers, called Thuggs, who infest the different provinces of India. Those miscreants are sometimes privately tolerated by the Zemindars, who, in return, share in their gains. Thuggs, like the jackals, hunt for their victims in packs: they enlist under a leader of superior intelligence and learning, and they go about like the destroying angel, decoying human beings to destruction. They have a code of laws to govern them, and they offer sacrifices to the Goddess Kali, and are great observers of omens. A dreadful oath is administered to each person on his admission into the gang, and the Goor, or consecrated sugar, is eaten by the new made Thugg. A band of Thuggs is divided into several parties, who have distinct

duties to perform ; one set are called the Inveiglers, who visit the towns and villages, and support the characters of merchants and soldiers. These men are famed for a polite demeanour, great dissimulation, and a good address. They try to pick up an acquaintance with travellers, and then propose, for their mutual safety, to travel in company together. Another set are the Grave-diggers. When the travellers are inveigled, and their murder planned, these men go in advance of the others to some secluded part of the jungle, or in the bed of a river dried up, close to which the whole party is to pass, and there they dig a deep hole sufficiently large to hold all those who are doomed to be murdered. After the perpetration of the bloody deed, the dead bodies are thrown into the hole, and sharp stakes having been prepared beforehand, incisions are made in the abdomens of their victims, and the stakes are driven through them. This precaution is to prevent the bodies swelling and raising the earth above them, as the jackals might thus discover the bodies. The Stranglers are a third set, whose duty it is to strangle their victims. Each Thugg selects an individual, and, on a preconcerted signal from his leader, throws a broad piece of cloth from behind round the neck of his victim, and turning his



nuckles into the neck, and giving a smart wrench, the poor wretches are dead in one or two minutes.

10th March. Breakfast is the meal I have the greatest relish for. I come home about 8 o'clock, after a two hours ride round the indigo Plantations, as hungry as a hawk. I have on the table, rice and curry, tea and coffee, delicious fried fish, fried chicken, without the bones, done a-la-veal-cutlet, fried ham and eggs, plantain fritters, and fruit of all kinds, to which I do great justice. My cook is every thing I could desire. The manners of the Brahmins are very engaging. They are polite and apparently very amiable members of society, but their good qualities lie on the surface, for, on examining more narrowly into their character, it is found that selfishness and avarice are the ruling passions by which they are actuated.

14th April. The musquitoes are a never-failing source of annoyance. Before I go to bed they are carefully brushed out of the bed, and as soon as I am in, the process of brushing is renewed until it appears they are all removed. The musquito curtains, made of fine green gauze, are then tucked in all round to exclude my tormentors; but, alas! before I have lain many minutes, I find a few are still left, who commence

flying about and buzzing till they alight on my face, and begin sucking at my blood. I can always tell by the noise ceasing that they have commenced their bloody repast; they begin by lancing the part, and then suck away till they are completely gorged. I can kill them with ease when they are in this state.

The people here measure time by the length of their shadow, so that when a person wishes to know the hour, he goes and stands erect in the sun, observing where his shadow terminates, and by measuring the length with his feet he is able to tell pretty correctly the time of day: this explains the passage in the 7th chapter of Job, where it is written, “as a servant earnestly desireth his shadow,” meaning the time to cease from labour.

21st May. I was awakened last night at midnight by a violent storm of thunder and lightning, and wind and rain. Half dreaming as I was, I had sense enough left to feel something moving in the bed, and, by the light from a flash of lightning, to my unspeakable horror, I saw, crawling over the mattress, a Cobra de Capello. He reared his head when he came to my body, and slowly crawled on to my legs; and as there was nothing over me but a thin cotton sheet, I could distinctly feel the cold clammy body of the venomous reptile

through the sheet. The heat of my body seemed agreeable to the monster as he coiled himself up there. I lay dead still ; I knew my life depended upon my remaining motionless, for had I moved a leg or an arm, he would instantly have bitten me ; after which I could not have lived many minutes. A cold sweat ran in a stream down my back ; I was in an agony of terror. Home and friends, and all that was dear to me, rushed to my memory ; my whole life passed in review before me. I saw no way of escape, and I considered my doom sealed ; every flash of lightning shewed me my new bed-fellow in all his loathsomeness. Well, there the reptile lay, but how long heaven knows : to me the time appeared interminable. When I had lain in one position about three hours, my legs became sore and stiff, from having been kept so long motionless ; and at this time I gave an involuntary shudder, which attracted the notice of the reptile. He raised his head about a foot high, thrust out his forked tongue, and looked around him as if for some living object to prey upon. I now thought it was all over with me. I prayed mentally, (for I dared not move my lips for fear of attracting notice,) for the forgiveness of my sins, when, Heaven be praised, the reptile unfolded his coils and crawled slowly away from off my

limbs, on to the bed, down by the bed-post to the floor, and left me. It has been said that poverty makes a man acquainted with strange bed-fellows : it might be added, so does wandering in foreign climes.

25th May. I have now been six months without seeing a European. My heart is yearning to behold my countrymen, and to hear the English language once more spoken. I often dream I am at home, walking in the green fields with one of Scotia's fair-haired maidens, but I soon awake again to behold the same eternal dusky faces. The strength of the love of country can be known only to those who are or have been similarly circumstanced to myself. What would I not give at this moment to behold a bonnie Scotch lassie, and to hear the sweet tones, and the dear accents of my native land, proceeding from her lips. I do believe it would almost drive me frantic with joy.

2nd June. The jackals are becoming very bold. At 5 P.M. a jackal seized one of my goats by the throat, within a few yards of my house, and was dragging it away, when I observed it, and scared the animal, who then dropped it. I found the jackal's teeth had pierced the windpipe of the goat, so I ordered it to be killed for dinner. A few days ago, a jackal bit one of my greyhounds,

and actually broke its jaw bones, which forced me to kill it. Almost every night they are doing some mischief. I set traps for them, and catch a great many; and I kill them by stabbing them with an old bayonet fastened to a long piece of bamboo.

12th June. Close sultry weather. Lay awake tossing on my couch till near daylight. I had just dropped asleep when I was awakened by a passing thunder storm, and I heard a noise as if some person was in the adjoining room. I got up instantly, took a pistol in each hand, and opened the door, when the cause of my alarm proved to be the peristrepthic movement of several bats and owls round the ceiling of the room. As I was out of bed at any rate, I thought I would see if my Cho-keedar (watchman) was awake; so I slipt quietly to the outer door, and found the fellow sitting on the stairs fast asleep. I discharged one of my pistols close to his ear; he awoke in an awful state of alarm. I asked him if I had missed him, and told him to beware in future, as the next time I found him sleeping on his watch I would certainly "do for him." The poor creature really believed I intended to shoot him, and his fears made him keep strict watch ever afterwards.

15th June. The heat is most intense. At noon

the sun darts down his fiery rays directly perpendicular ; all nature seems overcome with the fervent heat. The labourer retires to rest for some hours at mid-day. The sun, in unclouded splendour, shines forth till the earth becomes heated to such a degree that eggs may be roasted on its surface. The paroquets take shelter among the leafy branches of the mangoe tree—the dove coos to its mate among the groves of sweet-scented shrubs—and the beasts of the field lie down to sleep away the time in some spot sheltered from the noon-day heat—

“ O'er the sick and sultry plains,  
Through the dim delirious air,  
Agonizing silence reigns,  
And the wanness of despair.”

16th June. The rainy season commences about June, and generally lasts four months. The verdure which is spread over the face of the country almost exceeds belief. The alternate sunshine and shower act so powerfully on vegetation, that the Indigo plant has been known to grow two inches and a-half in the course of twenty-four hours. Indigo requires a rich soil to produce it. It is sown before the rainy season commences, and is ready for cutting in about three or four months. The plants are cut before they come into flower ;

they are steeped in a vat filled with water for twelve hours, till they become properly macerated, during which process the leaves part with the colouring matter. The liquor is then let off into another vat, into which half-a-dozen natives enter, standing up to the middle in the liquor, and beat it with bamboos for several hours, to cause the grains of Indigo to separate from the liquor, which is next allowed to settle, and the Indigo falls to the bottom, and the water is then slowly drawn off, and the colouring matter left. The Indigo is then put into a boiler, and boiled for about ten hours, after which it is run off and strained through cotton cloths, and the water pressed out of it. It is afterwards cut into pieces about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, and placed in the warehouse, in a current of air, to dry; when dry, it is packed in boxes, and sent to Calcutta. Indigo is a very precarious crop; it is not only liable to be destroyed by hail storms, but it is often altogether lost by a sudden rise in the river, which sometimes rises several feet in the course of twenty-four hours, and entirely sweeps away the labours of the Indigo planter.

4th July. I have felt drowsy in the afternoon, after tiffin, for two or three days past, with a dull heavy pain in my forehead. To-day my appetite

is gone, and I feel very sick and feverish. A black Doctor has given me some medicine, and I am so ill that I have betaken myself to bed.

31st July. For the last three weeks I have been dreadfully ill with the Jungle fever, most of the time insensible. I felt a burning heat and a thirst which nothing could allay. I was attended by the black Doctor, who administered jalap, calomel, and blue ointment. About the eighteenth day the crisis of the fever came; I felt the energies of life fast ebbing away. I thought I was dying. My extremities became deadly cold. The heat had concentrated in my head and chest, both of which felt on fire. A thick mist came over my eyes. I could see none. All was darkness. I thought it was the darkness of the valley of the shadow of death. I thought on my dear father and mother, and would have cried, but the fever in the brain had dried up the fountain whence the tears flow. I whispered for pen, ink, and paper, to write my father to tell him of my fate. They were brought, but it was too late—I could see none. I lay down on my back. The native servants kept rubbing my legs and arms to bring back the circulation. I could hear the natives speaking at my bedside; they were saying that I could not outlive the night. Shortly after, they



all left. I lay in this state from 4 P. M. till midnight. Every hour one of my servants would enter the room ; come close up and put his hand to my mouth to feel whether I was breathing. About midnight I fell into a deep sleep, or stupor, from which I awoke at six in the morning. The fever was gone, and I felt as if I had suddenly obtained a new lease of life.

## CHAPTER IV.

“ Oh, here no Sabbath bell  
Awakes the Sabbath morn,  
Nor song of reaper's heard  
Among the yellow corn.”

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20th August. I have seen a good many people afflicted with leprosy, which is a common disease in India. At first, white spots appear on the skin, which, in course of time, go on increasing till the whole body becomes as white as snow. The appearance of persons labouring under the disease is most disgusting.

The best rules that Europeans can adopt for preserving their health in this country, are early rising and early going to bed, riding on horseback morning and evening, temperance, great attention to cleanliness, and to keeping up of the perspira-

tion, and to refrain from all exposure to the sun by day, or the dew by night.

24th August. The custom of wearing nose-jewels is very common among the Hindoo women. This must be a very ancient custom, as allusion is made to it in Proverbs xi. 22 : “a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout.” The Banian tree, of which there are abundance in this neighbourhood, is a singular production of nature—a single tree may be mistaken for a whole grove; the branches from the main trunk throw down fibres to the earth, which take root, and, by a gradual process, increase in size until they actually become themselves trunks, and they in course of time throw out branches, which again take root, and thus the tree increases in size until a single Banian tree covers many acres of ground, and affords to the weary travellers a cool shade from the burning sun :

“ Branching so broad and long, that, in the ground,  
The bended twigs take root, and daughters grow  
About the mother root, a pillar’d shade,  
High over-arch’d, and echoing walks between.”

The Hindoos have a great veneration for this tree, and they are to be seen reclining under its shade, perusing the Shaster, and offering up prayers to their deities. Many of those trees cover

an amazing extent of ground. There is one said to have more than three thousand trunks, and they are constantly increasing; this tree has been known to have afforded shelter to 7000 men. The fruit resembles a fig, and is, when ripe, of a scarlet colour.

5th September. This morning, while riding over the fields, I saw a Cobra de Capella coiled round the stem of a low shrub. I called out to a Hindoo to kill it, but he told me that no consideration would tempt him to do so. I find, that besides his general aversion to take away life, he believes in transmigration, and that possibly his father, or great grandfather, may now be before him in the shape of a snake. The jungle is illuminated at night with swarms of fire flies, which have a fine effect, as they fly around or settle on the trees and bushes; when I kill any of them, the light which lies in the lower part of their body becomes extinct.

12th September. The Hindoos are separated into four great castes, of which the Brahmmins are the highest—no other caste is admitted to the office of the Priesthood, and they alone are permitted to read the sacred writings of the Hindoos. The Hindoos, unlike the Christians, do not admit proselytes to their faith. A Hindoo may lose

caste, but no man, however good, can gain the privilege of admittance into their caste. The religion of the Hindoos enjoins frequent ablution in the Ganges, the sacred name of which is Bahgirathe. It is said that Bahgirathe, one of the Gods, having his course impeded by the Ganges, and being thirsty at the time, sat down on the banks and drank the river dry, and it was only after the earnest prayers of other Hindoo deities that he took pity on the inhabitants of the country and disgorged the mighty river. The law is very favourable to the Brahmins, for if a man of low caste kill a Brahmin, he suffers death, but if a Brahmin kill a person of the Sooder caste, he is only fined ten cows and a bull. Indeed the sacred character of the Brahmins is so fixed in the minds of the Hindoos, that nothing can atone for the crime of being in any way accessory to their death. Knowing this principle, the Brahmin takes advantage of it to gain his ends, by threatening the person he wishes to coerce, that he will commit suicide and lay his death at his door ; accordingly the Brahmin sits down at the door of the man's house, *in dherna*, (as it is called,) with the instrument of suicide in his hand, and threatens to use it if he attempts to pass him, and thus gains his

and by working on the superstitious fears of his deluded adversary.

17th September. At 1 P. M. I had a visit from a snake-charmer ; he came to offer to rid my house of snakes, of which he assured me there were a great number secreted in holes about the house. I agreed to pay him two rupees on condition that he killed some snakes. The man sat down near the door, and took four tame snakes from a black bag, and then commenced playing on a pipe. The tame snakes were much delighted with the music, moving their heads up and down. After he had played some time, to my horror I observed first two snakes, and then three more, emerge from holes under my house, and crawl towards the music. Three of them I saw, by their crests, were Cobras. My blood began to run cold, when I thought that these monsters had been living under the same roof with me. In all probability one of them was the same that had paid me a midnight visit some time before. When the snakes approached near enough, the man seized them suddenly by the tail, and drew them through his hand till he held them firmly by the head, and then he choked them. I paid the snake-catcher double what I promised him, and was very thankful for

his visit. Snakes themselves have been long considered as possessed of the power of charming, or fascinating their victims. The Cobra de Capella, and the rattle-snake of America, are generally ranked as possessing higher powers of fascination than others of their tribe. The usual victims of their powers are small birds, mice, and squirrels. The birds are said to make many unavailing efforts to escape; they flutter round the enchanter for some time, till at length, wearied and worn-out, they drop quietly into his jaws. It has been asserted that the charming faculty of these reptiles is capable of fascinating human beings; but so far as the Cobra de Capella is concerned, I can bear testimony that it has not the most distant approach to fascination. Small birds may have fallen into the power of these reptiles rather than desert their young, and observers may have attributed to fascination what was merely the result of maternal solicitude.

10th October. I have engaged a barber by the month; he shaved me in bed to-day for the first time; when he had shaved one side of my face, I turned on my pillow till he finished the other. He is an expert operator. He afterwards pared my nails, cleaned my ears, and cracked the joints of my fingers. I did not feel very comfortable when

the black barber was at my throat with his razor. I kept my eyes firmly rivetted on his all the time he had me by the throat.

It is related in a Sanserit play, "that a poor ascetic made a vow to stand all his life under the branch of a tree, and while he stood there the white ants came and commenced building, but he never budged, although their structure rose higher and higher every day, until he had not the power to move away, and was finally enclosed in the building, and died a martyr to superstition."

The manner of washing the hands and face is different in India from the European practice. The Indians pour water into their hands from a brass jug, and wash their faces with the water before it falls, never using the water afterwards, but always pouring on fresh till purified.

6th November. I am awakened every morning at sunrise by one of my servants, who, after making the usual number of salaams, informs me that the sun is only waiting until I rise to show his glorious orb above the horizon. I immediately hold out my legs to the servant, who commences putting on my socks and trowsers: and I then get up and allow the valet to finish dressing me. One of my horses is waiting at the door ready saddled, upon which I mount and ride over the Indigo planta-



tion till about 8 A.M., when I return home to breakfast. From breakfast time until 5 P.M. I remain close confined to the house: the extreme heat rendering it almost insupportable to be exposed to the sun out of doors. I have no books here except the Bible and Cowper's Poems, the latter of which I have read so often that I can repeat the greater portion of the poems from memory. Cowper's suppositious verses by Alexander Selkirk, independent of their beauty, have peculiar charms for me, as they in a great measure embody my own feelings, living as I have been now for nearly thirteen months in a state of total seclusion from the European world, surrounded by the natives, whose manners and religion are all strange to me. I take tiffin at 1 P.M.: it consists generally of Mulligatawny soup, cold roast fowl, curried fish, cucumbers, and fruit of various kinds. After tiffin, I smoke the hookah, and rest till near 6 o'clock, when I take my evening ride over the Indigo grounds. I dine at 7 P.M., sit smoking the hookah till half-past 8 P.M., take a glass of brandy and water, and retire to rest. This is the daily routine of my existence, and I feel it very monotonous indeed.

One of the greatest bounties of Providence in the East is the cocoa-nut tree. The nut furnishes

the inhabitants with a delicious milk and a sweet kernel; the shells are manufactured into domestic utensils, and the outer husks into ropes and cordage; the leaves into umbrellas, matts, &c.; indeed it has been said that the tree can be applied to several hundred different uses. A sweet liquor is extracted from the tree, by making an incision near the top, and applying a jar thereto—the liquor called “toddy,” oozes through the wound into it. When fresh, this liquor is very sweet, but after being kept for twelve hours, it ferments, and becomes highly intoxicating.

15th November. The only luxury the natives seem to indulge in, is the hubble-bubble which they smoke on all occasions. The hubble-bubble is a hollow reed or cane, about a foot and a half long, with the lower end immersed in a cocoa-nut half full of water. On the upper end is a bowl made of earthen ware, which contains the tobacco.—There is a small hole in the upper part of the cocoa-nut, through which the smoke is drawn from the bowl above, and through the water below.—Having drawn in the smoke till the mouth is full, they retain it for a few seconds, and then allow it to escape by the nostrils.

10th December. I sometimes amuse myself shooting at different species of cranes which fre-

quent the margin of the river. I winged one of those birds this forenoon, and after I had picked it up, and while I was examining its wound, it made a stroke at one of my eyes with its long beak, and I was within half an inch of losing it.

23rd December. To day I witnessed a Suttee. In riding along the banks of the river, I observed a great assemblage of natives, and on coming up to the spot I saw a funeral-pile, and, at a short distance off, the widow of the deceased, surrounded by Brahmins; she was clothed in red, and appeared to be about seventeen years of age, and very interesting—even beautiful. I spoke to one of the Brahmins to use his influence to make her alter her resolution, but he refused to do so. After she had been bathed in the river, and her ornaments removed from her person, she bade an eternal adieu to all her relations and friends, and slowly ascending the pile, placed the head of her departed husband upon her bosom. Immediately the pile was fired, and at the same time the crowd roared out “hoore bool, hoore bool,” and shouted so as completely to drown the cries of their victim. I could see her, however, raise herself half up and shake her head as if in agony; she then fell down, and became completely enveloped in the flames—

“ A cheerful victim, lo, she mounts the pile,  
The thickening smoke now circles o’er her head ;  
Her husband’s bosom forms an easy bed :  
She will not doubt : devoted to her creed  
She claims the glory and demands the meed ;  
Courts the proud triumph of a Hindoo bride,  
Betrothed in life, in death to be allied.”

The beating of the tom-toms, and the savage noise of the natives, combined with the cruel murder I had witnessed, made my blood run cold. I have just heard of a Suttee which took place a few days ago in my neighbourhood, when the poor victim leapt from the flames, dreadfully scorched, but she was seized by the Brahmins and cast into the flames again. Feeling her torments insupportable, she once more leapt from off the pile, and ran into the water, but she was again dragged out by her murderers, and cast into the burning pile a third time. Dry faggots in great numbers were heaped upon her, and being now exhausted, she was unable to make further exertions to escape, and was soon suffocated with the smoke.

It is a melancholy fact that the Hindoos are more true to the principles of their faith than professing Christians usually are in India, where it cannot be denied thousands of Christians live,

whose whole lives prove that they are not at all under the influence of the Christian religion. It is this strange inconsistency that tends so much to injure the Christian religion with the natives of this country.

1st January. Ever since I found the watchman asleep on his post, I have been apprehensive of an attack from robbers. I have no lock to my doors ; indeed the windows and doors are left open all night for air. This morning, about 2 o'clock, hearing some slight movement in my bed-room, I at first supposed it to proceed, as usual, from the bats or owls flying about the room, but after listening attentively for a few moments, I heard a strange rustling under the bed. I happened to lean my head over the mattress, when, dark as it was, I saw slowly protruded from beneath the bed a frightful black face. I lay for a few seconds lost in amazement. I then cautiously felt for a pistol which lay under my pillow, but before I had time to grasp it, the black villain, who had been scared by my movement, leapt up and ran off, without even allowing me the privilege of a shot at him. Perhaps, as this was New-year's-day, the rascal came to be my first foot, but it is far more likely he came to assassinate and plunder me.

12th January. I have had a long conversation

with the Goremaster on the subject of our rule in India ; he speaks in the most flattering terms of the change we have effected in the country. Formerly, he says, they were under the caprice of a cruel despotism ; life and property were most insecure. If a crime was committed by any one of the inhabitants of a village, the Mahometan Ruler insisted that the inhabitants should produce the culprit under pain of having the whole village burnt to the ground ; whereas, such outrages are not perpetrated under the sway of the East-India Company—if a culprit escapes the penalty of his crime, the innocent do not suffer in his stead. He further observed, that the Ryots are kept in the greatest poverty from the heavy burdens they are subjected to, which, I am sorry to say, is but too true. By the settlement system made by the Marquis Cornwallis, on the 22d March 1793, “ All lands in the divisions of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, were divided into estates, and parcelled out in absolute right to the Zumeendars. In the division of the produce of these estates, it was decided, or rather estimated, that after deducting the expense of collection, one-half, or two-fifths would be left as before to the Ryot, or working farmer ; while, of the remaining half, or three-fifths, which constituted the rent of the estate, *ten-elevenths were*

*taken by the government as a tax, and one-eleventh left to the Zumeendars."* As this territorial assessment was fixed never to be increased, so, on the other hand, remissions were declared to be totally inadmissible.

"So long," says Mr Rickard "as a Zumeendar fulfils his engagement of paying the sum stipulated, the land remains in his possession. It is only in default of payment that the estate can ever again revert to the Company, but the poor Ryot is almost always in debt, what with the rent of his land, the exactions of the Zumeendar, fees to his servants, and the usury of the money-lender, the condition of the wretched cultivator of the soil in India is almost insupportable, and can be better imagined than described. He has neither present enjoyment nor the hope of future relief."

When we consider that these Hindoos are a very ancient people, and that long before the Christian era they had attained a high degree of civilization, even when the forefathers of their present European rulers were clad in the skins of wild beasts, and dwelt in caverns, and offered up human sacrifices to their Gods, and that they had their Bazaars and Money-Changers, wrote books, and were versed in all the mysteries of buying and selling, it becomes a question, why have they not advanced in the arts

and sciences, in knowledge and in power ? The answer is simply because they are kept down by the most enslaving superstition. Let but the light of the glorious Gospel shed its benign influence over Hindoostan, and then, and not till then, will the inhabitants advance in every virtue which exalteth a nation.



## CHAPTER V.

“ The poor exile  
Feels in each action of the varied day,  
His doom of banishment. The very air  
Cools not his brow as in his native land ;  
The scene is strange, the food is loathly to him ;  
The language, nay the music, jars his ear.”

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17th January. The Mahometan portion of the inhabitants of the village of Munsitpore make great rejoicings at their marriages. The ceremonies often last for several days. When the ceremony of giving away the bride takes place, the bride's mother takes hold of her right hand, and, placing it in that of the bridegroom's father, says, “ hitherto has this girl's modesty, honour, and reputation been in our hands, and we now resign them over to you,” when he replies, that her daughter will be well taken care of. The happy pair then go home in a palanquin, and the

bridegroom carries the bride out of the palanquin into his house, when a fowl or a sheep is sacrificed and given away in charity. Then commences the feet washing—the wife first washing her husband's feet, and then the husband the wife's ; after which the happy pair retire to their bed-room. If the wife proves fruitful, it is customary, when she arrives at the end of the seventh month of her pregnancy, for her parents to invite her to their house and give her a treat. On the occasion of this visit her friends perform an experiment upon her, to find out whether she is pregnant with a boy or a girl. They press out a few drops of the woman's milk on a piece of yellow cloth, and allow it to dry. On examination afterwards, if the milk leaves a white stain, they say she is to have a girl, but if it leaves a yellow stain they say it is to be a boy. The Indian women suffer little on the occasion of the birth of their children. It is not uncommon for them, I have been told, to be taken with labour while in the fields, and to be delivered, or rather to deliver themselves of their children at the water side, and, after washing them in the river, to walk home with them in their arms ; indeed so short and trifling are the pains of labour, that they seldom require the assistance of a midwife.

20th January. I find great difficulty in recollecting the days of the week, as the natives work on Sunday the same as on any other day; and I have just found out, that for some weeks past I have been keeping holy Saturday, the Jewish, in place of Sunday, the Christian Sabbath. To avoid the recurrence of this evil, I have desired my steward to order a sheep to be killed every Sunday morning, and a portion of it prepared for my breakfast. It feels strange to me to be living in a land where the Christian Sabbath is totally unknown; and here it may truly be said,

“ The sound of the church-going bell  
These vallies and rocks never heard;  
Never sighed at the sound of a knell,  
Nor smiled when a Sabbath appeared.”

24th January. After breakfast, my steward told me that two of my silver spoons were amissing, and that he suspected some of the servants had stolen them. He proposed that I should adopt *the trial by ordeal*, which he assured me never failed in finding out the thief, if he was present at the ordeal. I consented, and a Priest was sent for, who desired all the servants to sit down in a circle round him. He then took out a pair of small brass scales, and weighed out a mouthful of

dry rice to each of the servants, and desired them to chew it. After allowing them sufficient time to masticate it, he ordered each of them to put the rice out of their mouths, that he might examine it and detect the thief. All the servants had completely chewed their portion of the rice, except one, *whose portion was nearly as whole as when he first put it into his mouth.* The Priest immediately declared this person to be the thief. He is a boy I had hired only about ten days ago to run messages, and to fan me asleep. The young rascal at once confessed the theft, and promised to return the spoons, which he has already done. I have dismissed him from my service. The reason why the thief could not chew the rice was simply because he was dreadfully afraid of being discovered; and this state of alarm acting on the nervous system, suppressed the salivary discharge which was necessary to enable him to masticate the dry rice.

4th February. A party of Jugglers passed through Munsitpore to-day; they spread their carpet in front of my house, and I witnessed their performances from the verandah. I had seen Jugglers before at Calcutta, swallowing a sword, tossing nine balls into the air, and keeping them all moving at one time, and performing many other wonderful feats; but, at the present exhibi-

tion, I saw a mangoe stone put into the ground, and shortly afterwards a tree spring up to the height of several feet, and the mangoes appeared growing on the tree quite natural.

The Jugglers had several snakes with them, which they offered to convey into my pocket without my observing them, which I however declined.

I have heard of a singular feat which is performed by the Indian Jugglers. They produce a chain fifty cubits in length, and throw up one end of it towards the sky, where it remains as if fastened. A dog is sent up the chain and disappears at the other end ; various other animals pass up by the chain, and at the upper end they all disappear ; and when the chain is taken down, nothing is seen, and nobody can tell in what way the animals have disappeared. Another wonderful feat, which is well authenticated, was performed by a Brahmin, at Madras, viz. *sitting on the air*. A person who witnessed it thus describes it : “ The only apparatus seen is a piece of plank, which, with four pegs, he forms into a kind of long stool ; upon this, in a little brass saucer or socket, he places, in a perpendicular position, a hollow bamboo, over which he puts a kind of crutch, like that of a walking-crutch, covering that with a piece of

common hide ; these materials he carries with him in a little bag, which is shown to those who come to see him exhibit. The servants of the house hold a blanket before him, and when it is withdrawn he is discovered poised in the air, about four feet from the ground, in a sitting attitude, the outer edge of one hand merely touching the crutch ; the fingers of that hand deliberately counting beads ; the other hand and arm held up in an erect posture. The blanket is then held up before him, and a gurgling noise is heard, like that occasioned by wind escaping from a bladder or tube, and when the screen is withdrawn he is again standing on *terra firma*."

8th February. Mr Williams, my employer, wrote me a few days ago that he wished me to visit him to-day at Commercolly. I rose therefore at 3 A. M., and set off on horseback, accompanied by the ostler as a guide. I rode in the dark for more than three hours while my horse was led by the ostler. While passing under large trees, I remarked, that it felt very warm there, although it was cold in the open air. When I was passing through a very close and thick jungle, I heard a low growling kind of noise which made my horse tremble from head to foot. I asked the ostler the cause of the horse's alarm ; he answered that the animal was

afraid of a *Baug* which was growling within a few yards of us. I have no doubt it was some animal of the tiger species ; however I was well pleased to find it did not attack us. I don't much fancy this night travelling through jungles full of all kinds of wild beasts.

I arrived safe at Commercolly at 7 A. M. I breakfasted with Mr and Mrs Williams and family. He seems a good kind of man himself, but I understand he leaves the whole management of his Indigo Factories to Mrs Williams, who is here called Beebee Saheb, which means "the gentleman's lady." This lady, in his name, dictates the whole business correspondence, appoints and dismisses the factory servants, and has full power over them. She is a lady of great ability and strong nerves, and rather good looking. She is very satirical, and said to be fond of flogging the natives. I rode out before dinner in company with Mr and Mrs Williams over one of their Indigo Plantations. Mrs Williams spoke the native languages fluently, and examined the factory servants about the Indigo fields ; and whenever their answers were deemed by her unsatisfactory, she threw down her whip to the ground, which was the signal for her attendants to strip the cloth off the man's back and flog him. She then galloped away,

leaving the poor native writhing in agony. She served four different men in the same way during our ride. They roared to Beebee Saheb in vain for mercy ; their backs were severely cut up, but they appeared like the eels, to be used to skinning. Mrs Williams observed to me that nothing but fear could operate to make them do their duty, and that she was obliged to order them to be flogged. This system of flogging was new to me, and it certainly spoiled my appetite for dinner. I had been accustomed to associate with the female character tenderness and delicacy, but these feelings were sadly outraged by Mrs Williams, who seemed totally destitute of both.

While riding over the fields in her company, she commenced asking me some questions, and for a moment a thought struck me that perhaps she might order her attendants to serve me out in the same way, and I regretted I had left my pistols at home, for really I did not feel myself quite safe in her ladyship's company after what I had seen. That these Indians might not be free from blame is most likely, but that any lady should have it in her power to order the natives to be flogged at her discretion, is a clear proof that liberty is unknown at Commercolly. Whether such doings are sanctioned by the government at Calcutta, I am not prepared



to say, but that the natives suffer themselves to be flogged every day by order of Mrs Williams, is a fact well known all round this neighbourhood. If the law protects them from such usage, would they not apply for redress, and, as they do not, the natural inference is, that they would get no redress if they did complain.

I dined in company with Mr and Mrs Williams. We sat down at eight o'clock to a most sumptuous dinner. Mrs Williams cautioned me against the snakes, and when I told her of my narrow escape in bed, she seemed to take a great interest in my adventure. She told me that a few weeks ago a little boy, to whom she rode up to speak, wishing to conceal a segar he was smoking, thrust his hand with it into a hole in the wall behind him, and was bitten by a small snake of about three inches long, but of so venomous a kind that the poor boy dropt down dead almost instantly.

I stopped all night at Commercolly, intending to ride home next morning.

12th February. Notwithstanding the time I have resided here, I have never yet seen the inside of a Hindoo's house, and I suppose would not though I were to remain here all the days of my life. I hold converse daily with the Brahmins and other Hindoo castes, on business, but they

never ask me to join their domestic circle, and let me have a peep behind the scenes. Indeed my presence in their houses they would consider contamination ; and I believe were I to violate the sanctity of their home, my life would be the price of my temerity, and the family in the house would lose caste, of which they are dreadfully afraid ; and no wonder, for it has been observed, very justly, “ the loss of caste is the loss of the whole world. Henceforth the offender can see no more the face of father, mother, brother, or sister, or even of his wife or children. They will fly from his presence as from one infected by some deadly distemper.” The unfortunate wretch generally either commits suicide, or, like a second Cain, becomes a wanderer and outcast on the face of the earth.

The native potters have a curious mode of setting broken limbs. The potter, after adjusting the limb in a proper position, covers it over with moist clay, and allows it to dry, which fixes the limb completely in one position. The clay is allowed to remain on it until the bone has had time to be perfectly knitted, when it is removed.

18th February. For the last three months the weather has been delightfully cold and bracing, particularly in the mornings and evenings. In this country the year is divided into three seasons,

the rainy, the cold, and the hot. The rainy season extends from June to October, the cold from November to February, and the hot from March to May. The year may also be divided into healthy and unhealthy seasons. From the month of November to the month of May is the healthy season, and the months of June, July, August, September, and October, are reckoned unhealthy.

2d March. Champooing is a common practice here among Hindoos and Mahometans. My barber has offered to champoo me daily after tiffin, and I have allowed him to perform on me for the first time this afternoon. He rubs and kneads my body and limbs in a peculiar way with his hands, which has a very soothing effect on the nervous system; he cracks the joints of my fingers and toes, and pulls my ears and chin; he wished also to *pull my nose*, but this I declined. The operation lasts from half an-hour to three quarters, and on the whole, is very pleasant and agreeable, and, is an excellent preparation for the siesta. I am told that the luxurious Brahmins, in the interior of their temples, recline at their ease on couches of the softest silk, while the beautiful Nautch girls champoo them with their soft delicate hands.

6th March. The hookah is much indulged in by the wealthy natives in this country. It is cer-

tainly the most agreeable way of smoking tobacco. I use it regularly after dinner and tiffin, and, as I mentioned before, I think it prepares me for sleep, by soothing the nervous system. The hookah consists of a glass, silver, pewter, or brass bottom, filled two-thirds full of water, to the mouth of which is fixed a pipe, one of the tubes of which passes through the water and enters another tube, which communicates with the snake through which the smoke is inhaled by a mouth-piece of silver, tipped with gold. The snake is generally covered with silk and gold thread, and is highly ornamented. It has a magnificent appearance. It is commonly brought in after dinner, by a servant called a hookahburder, and placed on a carpet at the back of the chair. Both ladies and gentlemen smoke the hookah, and they say, with what truth I know not, that it assists the digestion after a hearty meal.

22d March. The country is greatly infested with beggars; indeed there are more of them in India than any place in the world. It forms a part of the religious duties of a large portion of the population, and men who wish to become unusually sanctified, make begging the only source of gaining a livelihood. It has been asserted, "that an eighth part of the population of Bengal and

Bahar subsist in this manner.” Thus they form a begging population of upwards of two millions ; and the alms received by them, supposing each to obtain only a rupee a month, will amount to three millions sterling—a sum annually extracted from the labouring classes, who in general are extremely poor.

## CHAPTER VI.

“ Then the wind

Unprisoned blew its trumpet loud and shrill:

Out-flashed the lightnings gloriously; the rain

Came down like music, and the full-toned thunder

Rolled in grand harmony throughout high heaven.”

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10th April. I was present this afternoon at the famous festival in honour of the Goddess Kali, and witnessed the ceremony of swinging performed by several of the natives. A great concourse of people were present, and I observed a larger proportion of fine-looking Hindoo females than are usually to be seen in the village. They seemed to enjoy the scene much, and were dressed in their jewels and fine muslin; their nails, and all around their eyes, were dyed with henna, which gave them an additional interest. The ceremony of swinging took place in an open area, where a

pole about forty feet high was erected, across the top of which was slung a long bamboo, and two ropes with hooks at them were attached to one end of it. These hooks were passed through the fleshy part of the victim. I was close to him when the operation was performed; only a drop or two of blood came from the wound, and I observed that he clenched his hands and teeth firmly, but did not wince. The hooks, which were very bright, resembled those used in butcher's shops in England. So soon as he was hooked, several men commenced pulling on ropes attached to the other end of the bamboo, which raised him from the ground, and he floated in the air, *his whole weight actually hanging upon the hooks*. After swinging round about fifteen minutes, during which time he employed himself throwing parched pease and flowers among the crowd, who loudly cheered him, he was lowered down, and another victim hooked on. The skin and flesh of the back sometimes give way, and the poor fanatic falls to the ground, and very frequently meets his death.

21st April. I received yesterday a letter from Mr Williams, containing instructions to plough up certain fields on which the Ryots have sowed rice, and to sow Indigo in its place. Accordingly, at six A. M., taking men and ploughs for the purpose

along with me, I proceeded on horseback to the fields to see this order executed, but, to my astonishment, no sooner were the ploughmen put upon the fields, than they were attacked by a large body of the Ryots, and beaten off the fields. I rode up to inquire the cause of this conduct, when they surrounded my horse, and saluted me with a volley of sticks and stones, much to the endangerment of my head and chest. In particular, one of the sticks thus thrown, injured my bridle-hand so much that I was afraid I would require to drop the reins. Seeing this, the Ryots made a rush to seize the bridle, but I immediately clapped spurs to my horse, and fairly distanced them. I really thought they meditated doing me severe bodily harm. I had no idea that they had so much spirit as to attack any one. I rode home as fast as possible, and forwarded to Mr Williams an account of the whole transaction, which was the means of his sending next day a number of armed police to apprehend the Ryots, (I had almost written "rioters.") I accompanied them to the place, but every man, woman, and child, had left the small village where they had lived. We found nothing but empty huts. All was desolation, and as to their whereabouts, we could obtain no positive information. These poor Ryots must surely have been driven



to desperation, for I think that nothing but the dread of famine could have made them rebel against Mr Williams, the Honourable East-India Company's Commercial Resident at Commercolly, who, in addition, was on his own account a large Indigo Planter, and had many factories, three of which were under my superintendence. Whether Mr Williams had a right to these fields, I cannot say; but he certainly adopted a harsh measure in ploughing up the rice on which they depended for subsistence. For my share in the business, I met with rather a severe handling, which might have been worse if I had not made good my retreat in time.

4th May. The sky for some days past has assumed a threatening appearance—

“ Nature faints with fervent heat ;  
Ah ! her pulse hath ceased to beat ;  
Now in deep and dreadful gloom  
Clouds on clouds portentous spread,  
Black as if the day of doom  
Hung o'er Nature's shrinking head.”

This afternoon, about half-past five, we were visited with a thunder storm, which exceeded in intensity anything of the kind I ever witnessed. It commenced with a violent hurricane, which

forced open several of the doors. Before the hurricane reached the house, I could see the clouds of dust at a distance rolling onwards. During five hours it lightened almost incessantly, and the sheet, the ball, and the forked lightning, illumined the sky at one and the same time, making the room where I sat as bright as day, even after night's sable mantle had enshrouded the world. At times a peal of thunder burst on my ear with a sharp, loud, and tremendous crash, shewing that it had exploded close to the house. At the commencement of the storm a shower of hailstones had fallen, which, I can positively assert, were as large as ordinary-sized walnuts, and left a deep imprint in the earth where they fell. During the time that the storm lasted, I was a solitary prisoner; the servants being all in the outhouses, and although quite near, yet none of them dared venture to come to me; there I sat, "like patience on a monument," for five full hours, in total darkness, save when the light was reflected from the electric fluid, and with nothing to divert my attention from the war of elements around me.

10th May. The picturesque forms of the native servants, combined with their oriental costumes, and the silent and graceful way in which they glide to and fro, and the anxiety they show to

anticipate all our wants, and the *apparent* devotedness to our interests, are peculiarly striking to strangers from Europe. In India every luxury is to be had, but as soon as the novelty ceases, they all cloy, and we lose our relish for them. The overpowering heat of the climate steeps the mind in a kind of lethargy, which reduces the body to a state of great indolence, the consequence of which is, that too little exercise is taken, and this, combined with rich stimulating food, soon induces functional derangement of the liver. What is singular, hogs and oxen are also subject to the same complaint; indeed most of the livers of those animals I have seen in this country have been more or less diseased.

1st June. Provisions of most kinds are remarkably cheap in this place. I can purchase two dozen and a-half of fowls for a rupee\*: a sheep or a goat only costs half a rupee; a milk cow and calf can be got for six rupees. Fish of excellent quality are in great abundance, and very reasonable in price. I live very much on fowls. Beef I have never tasted since I came here. Were I to

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\* A rupee is equivalent to 2s. 3d. of sterling money.

order a cow to be killed, it might give great offence to the Brahmins; and as it would only keep for twenty-four hours, it would be a needless waste, for one solitary individual could only eat a very small portion of it in that time; indeed the sheep which is killed for my use on Sunday morning is hardly eatable at dinner on Monday, although it is cooked the night before. I keep two cows for the sake of the milk; several goats, and a large assortment of poultry of all kinds. There are no copper coins in circulation here; purchases are all made with cowries, (a species of small shell,) or with silver or gold. One hundred cowries are equal in value to one pice, (a half-penny.) The natives carry a bag of them along with them when they go to market. Venders of goods can count them with amazing rapidity.

15th June. Since the weather became hot, the snakes are literally swarming in the fields. I can hardly ride many yards without passing several of them. There are a great many different kinds, and of all sizes, from a few inches to three or four yards long. I have noticed a few even longer, which glide along very fast among the grass; the ostler tells me that their bite is not very dangerous, but that they are great pests, inasmuch as

they fasten on the udders of the cows, and suck them dry.

My ostler, whose duty it is to run at my horse's side, is kept in a state of constant alarm, lest he should chance to set his *bare feet* upon the carcasse of any of the snakes, who would not hesitate for one moment to give him "a taste of their quality." During my ride this morning, we came upon a large Cobra de Capello. It was within four yards of my horse's head before I observed it. I instantly called out to the ostler to apprise him of the danger. The poor man was much alarmed, and kept alternately lifting his feet with great alacrity, thinking that the snake was close to his heels, until at last he cast his eyes upon it. I resolved to kill it, but before doing so I wished to try what would be the effect of its bite on a fowl and a dog. I sent for a sample of those animals, and having tied them to a shrub with a rope, I left them to the tender mercies of the snake, while I looked on at a short distance. The snake crawled slowly towards the dog, and bit him in the fore-paw, and afterwards bit the fowl in the leg. The dog howled very much at first, but his cries gradually became fainter and fainter, and in about fourteen minutes he was lying on the grass quite

dead. The fowl did not survive four minutes. I killed the snake by dashing its brains out with stones. Snakes feed chiefly upon frogs, lizards, rats, young birds, and eggs. They can swallow an animal whole, although of greater circumference than their own bodies. A small Cobra de Capello which had visited my hen-house, and killed a number of the fowls, had swallowed eight new-laid eggs whole. I could count them easily through its skin. I killed it, got the eggs taken out, and had a couple of them boiled for breakfast, which astonished my Bobberchi not a little. It often happens that a snake swallows a frog alive, and afterwards is swallowed alive in its turn by a large aquatic fowl, and it is quite probable that for some time afterwards both the frog and the snake may be alive in the stomach of the fowl.

17th June. It is a common custom in the East to conceal money and jewels in the thick walls of the houses, where the treasure is often discovered many years afterwards when the house is pulled down. The custom of Princes and Nabobs to make immense collections of gold and precious stones, led to their concealment in time of war, to prevent them falling into the hands of their enemies.

20th June. I am much annoyed with the number of Tattoos (native breed of horses) which infest the sides of the roads, and as the horses used for riding in this country are all entire, they are very dangerous. This morning my horse ran off after a Tattoo—I lost all power over him. The Tattoo ran below an arch so low as barely to allow her to pass ; my horse followed ; I saw the danger, and laid myself at full length on the horse's back, in hopes that there might be room below the arch for us both to pass, but, no ! my back caught the arch, and there I stuck for some time, and was very severely crushed. The horse at last squeezed himself through, and I fell off at his tail, and was carried home much injured. A native doctor recommended me to apply fresh-pulled tobacco leaves to the swellings, which I did, and although this application afforded me much relief, I found it had the effect of making me very sick at the time. I have given orders to the natives to remove all the Tattoos from the road sides.

4th July. Mr Williams has been visiting one of his factories in my neighbourhood, and he has been attacked by the Ryots in the same way I was. He has made a complaint to the Judge of the district, who has apprehended some of them.

The Goremaster here informs me that he is paying men to become witnesses against them. I asked him if the witnesses he spoke of had seen the attack ; he laughed at my simplicity, and said *no*, that the men were paid for swearing that they saw the Ryots attack Mr Williams, and on their false testimony these poor men will perhaps be condemned for life to work in chains on the roads. Whether Mr Williams is aware of the nature of his evidence I do not know, but it is probable that he will be eventually, as the Goremaster will not surely fail to make a charge for the evidence thus procured.

16th July. I have often occasion to cross the river when inspecting the Indigo grounds. At five P. M. I was crossing in the ferry boat, and when half over, my horse, which was on board, suddenly gave a kick with one of his hind legs and knocked a large hole in the bottom of the boat, which was clinker built, when the water rushed in in such quantities that in about a minute the boat sunk, and we were all swimming for our lives. The accident was fortunately observed from the shore, and a boat put off immediately to our rescue. I am but a poor swimmer, and I was afraid my strength would be exhausted before the boat



reached us, so to save my strength I turned on my back and floated until the boat came and picked us all up. When the accident occurred, the natives on the shore, much to their credit, displayed the greatest promptitude and anxiety to save us.

## CHAPTER VII.

“ Then wasteful, forth  
Walks the dire power of pestilent disease ;  
A thousand hideous fiends her course attend  
Sick nature blasting, and to heartless woe  
And feeble desolation casting down  
The towering hopes and all the pride of man.”

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5th August. The natives, who live at Munsitpore and the villages in the neighbourhood, are dying very fast of cholera and fever. It is painful to ride along the river side and see so many dead bodies burned. I counted this afternoon no fewer than ten funeral piles opposite one village, and at some distance from them I saw another of larger dimensions, around which a mob were assembled making a most tumultuous noise, which increased the nearer I approached towards them. I knew it was a *Suttee*, and that the Brahmins were at their cruel work again—my

soul sickened at the sight, and I turned my horse's head to avoid passing the spot.

10th August. The heat and the heavy rain together have caused animals of all kinds to spring up in amazing numbers. Every thing appears to be full of life ; my house is literally swarming with frogs, lizards, ants, and other animals, even my very clothes are visited by myriads of insects, who find accommodation beneath the collar of my coat, and under the band of my hat. Animals of various sorts may be seen leaping and crawling over the bed. Snakes seem as plentiful here as worms in England ; fortunately the most of them are harmless, but as I do not know the one kind from the other, I am kept in constant alarm, and I have often too much cause ; this morning, when one of the servants lifted the mat before my door to shake it, a small Cobra de Capello, which he had rolled up and lifted along with it, fell at his feet. The poor man started back, and nearly knocked me over, luckily he escaped, and the snake glided away into a hole below the house. I have adopted the practise of sitting after dinner with my legs on the table, to prevent the snakes twining round them. This custom would not answer among ladies, but here, where I am all alone, I am not so particular, more es-

pecially as I find it a great security against the snakes.

15th August. I have been ill for some days past; I have a loathing at food—severe pains in my right side—and excruciating headaches. The native doctor has got me into his hands again; he seems determined to convert me into an animated apothecary's shop, for he makes me swallow drugs in the most wholesale manner imaginable. I am in very low spirits, and I often wish I had never come to this sickly horrible place. When I engaged with Mr Williams, he stipulated that I was on no account to have the slightest intercourse with any of the European residents in the neighbourhood, for what reason I know not, but this total seclusion and comparative solitude was most irksome to me when in health, and in the state I am now in it is almost insupportable; it must tend greatly to increase my disease, which I am told is *liver complaint*.

16th August. I had a letter yesterday from Mr Williams; he writes me that from the nature of my disease he thinks that my illness may be very protracted, and it may be very long (if ever) before I am again fit to discharge my duty as his superintendent; and closes his letter by recommending me to resign my situation. I have according-

ly sent in my resignation, and am to leave in a month. The Goremaster says I may consider myself fortunate, as most of my predecessors in the office have died here. The cholera is as bad as ever, the villages are, many of them, half depopulated.

14th September. I have been engaged all day making arrangements for removing to Calcutta. I have paid off all my servants with the exception of two, (the steward and cook,) who are to remain in my employment. I have agreed with the Manjee of a Paunchway to carry me to Calcutta, and I leave to-morrow.

15th September. I left Munsitpore at one P. M., and embarked in the boat for Calcutta; we have a strong current in our favour, and are making rapid way. At dusk we brought the boat to the shore and stopped all night.

16th September. We started at daylight. I find that two of the Dandies (or boatmen) were taken ill last night of fever; they are lying in the boat within two yards of my bed. They appear very distressed, and are constantly taking large draughts of the muddy water of the river. They have received no medicine whatever. I proposed to give them a dose of calomel and jalap, and I asked the Manjee if he would allow me to do so; he said,

“ if I was *certain of curing* them” I might do so, but not otherwise, On such terms I thought it most advisable not to prescribe.

17th September. The poor Dandies are evidently dying ; they are both insensible, and yet it is strange to see them so little altered. They drank the muddy water as long as they could open their mouths. Both of them died in the course of the day, and the remaining Dandies, being Mussulmauns, waited till sunset, when they dug large holes on the margin of the river and buried them about a foot below the surface. Before we are long gone, the jackals will most likely have disinterred them, as their graves have been made so shallow, and so accessible to wild beasts. This is my birth day, and a gloomy one it has been ; but to do honour to the occasion I took an extra glass of *brandy panee* at night, and drank to all friends round the *Tron Kirk of Edinburgh*. We expect to be in Calcutta early to-morrow morning.

18th September. This morning I found my appetite better than it had been, and I had some delicious *Hilsee Mutchee* for breakfast. I made a hearty meal, and for some time afterwards I felt a peculiarly comfortable and agreeable sensation, which was perfectly indescribable. This state lasted about ten or fifteen minutes, when I was

taken suddenly very sick, accompanied by a feeling of great exhaustion. I was seized with the usual symptoms of cholera morbus in its most alarming aspect. I threw myself on my bed, and desired the Dandies to carry me, bed and all, to the nearest English doctor's house, for most providentially we had just arrived at the shore, on the opposite side of the river to that on which Calcutta stands. Four of the Dandies lifted the bed on which I lay out of the boat, and, by making inquiry among the Garden Houses, they found out an English, or rather Scotch Physician, who proved to be DR BROWN of Calcutta, one of the most eminent men in that city. He was at home, and received me most kindly into his house. He gave me two draughts, both of which I vomited. He then said he would give me a dose that would relieve me if any thing would, and he placed 20 grains of calomel on the back part of my tongue, and measured out 100 drops of laudanum, which I swallowed by his orders. This dose had the desired effect, and I shortly afterwards fell into a stupor, in which I lay till the evening, when Dr Brown gave orders that I should be rowed over to Calcutta, and landed at Champaul Ghaut. This was accordingly done, and from Champaul Ghaut I was removed in a palanquin to a respectable

boarding-house. Dr Brown called in his carriage at night, prescribed for me, and gave the master of the house directions about me. It was fortunate that this attack of cholera was taken at the commencement, for, had it seized me only a day earlier, I would have stood a bad chance of surviving, as I was far from medical advice.

29th September. Dr Brown has been most attentive in visiting me every day. I shall never forget my obligations to him. I asked him to accept a fee, but he refused; he said I may need all my money before I am well again.

Dr Brown has a very large practice, and when Dr Macwhirter retires he has the prospect of succeeding to his business, by which arrangement he will no doubt amass an ample fortune in a few years; my best wishes go with him.

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CALCUTTA. I took a stroll one day in the English burying-ground. I remarked that a very large proportion of those buried here are under twenty-five years of age. This fact speaks volumes touching the baneful effects of the climate on Europeans, and it should be made known to those who are proposing to leave their native land. It is a melancholy reflection to think that so many young men are cut off after a residence here of only a



year or two. Alas ! their bright hopes of future wealth are suddenly crushed by disease, and they are left to die in a land of strangers. Perhaps when they are labouring under some fatal malady, they will recal to their memory the words of poor John Leyden, in his address to *an Indian gold coin*, written, it is said, while he was suffering under a *coup de soleil* :

“ Slave of the dark and dirty mine,  
What vanity has brought thee here ?  
How can I love to see thee shine  
So bright, whom I have bought so dear ?  
The tent-ropes flapping lone I hear,  
For twilight’s converse arm in arm ;  
The Jackal’s shriek bursts on mine ear,  
When mirth and music went to charm.  
By Cheral’s dark wandering streams,  
Where cane tufts shadow all the wild,  
Sweet visions haunt my waking dreams  
Of Teviot loved while yet a child ;  
Of castled rocks stupendous piled,  
By Esk or Eden’s classic wave,  
Where loves of youth and friendship smiled,  
Uncurst by thee vile yellow slave.”

A writer on India, observes, “ strangers visiting our eastern territories cannot fail to be impressed with painful feelings, as they survey the gloomy receptacles appropriated to those Chris-

tians who are destined to breathe their last in exile. The portion of ground consecrated and set apart as the final resting-place of the European residents, is seldom sufficiently extensive to give ‘ ample scope and verge enough’ for those who seek repose within its gloomy precincts. All are over-crowded, and many exhibit the most frightful features of a charnel-house—dilapidated tombs, rank vegetation, and unburied bones whitening in the wind. The trees are infested with vultures and other hideous carrion birds ; huge vampire bats nestle in the walls, which too often present apertures for the admission of wolves and jackals crowding to their nightly resort, and tearing up the bodies interred without the expensive precaution necessary to secure them from such frightful desecration.”

I have been several times at the English church ; it is painful to look on the pale sallow countenances of the European worshippers, more especially of the female portion, who look like so many “ sheeted ghosts,” a circumstance which clearly proves the fact that few Europeans live long in this country in a state of vigorous health. European ladies are very scarce in Calcutta, but there are a great abundance of half-caste ladies. They are generally the illegitimate daughters (by

native mothers) of the higher ranks of Europeans. They go under the appellation of *Cheechees*, which means in Hindostanee *fie! fie!* and is a phrase they are very fond of using. Many of those girls are extremely beautiful, indeed their symmetry is perhaps the finest in the world, and equal to that of the Quadroones, who are their offspring by European men. They are said to be very affectionate and tender-hearted creatures, and every way calculated to make any man happy, who is inclined for connubial bliss, and of a sufficient domestic turn to fit him for such a pursuit. It is impossible to reflect on the vast numbers of the half-caste population of India, which are daily increasing, without feeling alarm for the stability of our government in India. The language, habits, and religion of this class, are the same as Europeans. They are in general well educated, and in fact they comprise what may be called the citizens of the three Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. They are chiefly employed as clerks, shop-keepers, and small merchants. They are unjustly looked down upon by the European residents, who consider them debased by the native blood which circulates in their veins. I believe they are not eligible to appointments in the Company's service, but from the increasing numbers, wealth, and intelligence

of these anglo-Indians, (or East Indians as they wish to be called,) it would be well for the stability of our Indian government that the Company should pay more deference to their feelings, and give them a chance of honourable employment, by making them eligible to situations of trust under government, and granting them all the privileges of free-born citizens.

The great majority of the native population of Calcutta are far from being famed for morality or integrity; and it has been observed by Mr Hamilton, "that notwithstanding the severity of the police, and of the English laws, it appears probable, that the morals of the native inhabitants are worse in Calcutta than in the provincial districts. This is not to be attributed solely to the size of the population and indiscriminate society of the capital, but in a great part to the Supreme Court, every native connected with which appears to have his morals contaminated by the intimacy. Within these few years, the natives have attained a sort of legal knowledge, as it is usually denominated. This consists of a skill in the arts of collusion, intrigue, subornation, and perjury, which enables them to perplex and baffle the magistrates with infinite facility." Indeed I hear there is a general complaint that it is very difficult for the Criminal

Courts in India to prove a charge on a criminal, as he is always ready to prove an alibi by producing false witnesses. Sir William Jones admits that "Perjury seems to be committed by the meanest, and encouraged by some of the better sort, among the Hindoos and Mussulmauns, with as little remorse as if it were a proof of ingenuity or even of merit."

"The chief cause of depravity in the Bengalee character," says another writer, "is to be found in the nature of their religion. In the *Juntra Shasters*, (which, as inculcating a less rigid and austere doctrine, and pointing out an easier way to heaven, have of late come very much into fashion,) there are *munters* (*mantras prayers*) for all professions, all situations, and all actions. Strange to relate, there are *munters* for thieves, burglars, and robbers, with forms of invocation to the deities for success in their schemes of plunder, as well as consecration of their various weapons. The penance prescribed for telling a lie, is the repetition of the name of Vishnoo once for each offence. Thus we may often observe the religious Brahmin counting his beads, and repeating the name of his god, while under examination in our courts."

A late writer has very justly remarked, that "Calcutta is in every point of view a new city ;

almost as much so with regard to its native gentry, as to its European population. The great native families who contribute to its splendour are of recent origin. We scarcely think ten families could be named in Calcutta who possessed wealth before the rise of the English power. Its vast opulence is the growth of a little more than half a century. It has been accumulated under our sovereignty, chiefly in our service, entirely through our protection. The wealth possessed by the natives in Calcutta is immense. The Rothschilds and the Barings of India are not to be found in the circle of European banking houses, but among the natives. The great natives of Calcutta not only regulate the money-market, but they possess immense estates in the country. During the progress of our government, the lands, more particularly in Bengal, have changed hands almost as extensively as they did after the Norman conquest in England. The more ancient families unwilling to reduce their expenditure within their income, and obliged to pay their rents periodically, have gradually fallen to decay. Their estates have been purchased chiefly by the new men who have recently risen to opulence, either through trade or in the service of government, a very great proportion of whom reside in Calcutta.

The trade of a banker is a thriving one here. They not only exchange the different kinds of coin current over India, but they also issue *Hoondies* on the principal towns in Hindostan, shewing that they must have a very extensive correspondence and connexion; they, in addition, lend out money at a high rate of interest on mortgage, or on deposits of jewels or valuable goods, and they take care not to lend above one half of their value.

It is easy to incur debt here, and the consequence is, that many military officers contract debt on their first arrival, which takes them many years to liquidate.

The cholera is raging—about 500 people are dying of it daily in this town. The natives are as liable to take it as the Europeans. In driving along the streets in my buggy, early in the morning, I sometimes encounter the bodies of natives, who, having been seized with it in the streets, have died during the night. It is not an uncommon occurrence to be invited to dine with a gentleman, and, on entering his house, to find him a corpse. Europeans are frequently taken ill in their palanquins, and die in the druggist's shop in one or two hour's illness.

The cholera is not reckoned infectious, and no

precautionary measures are adopted. It generally attacks Europeans the day after a debauch, or after taking a more than usual hearty meal. Persons are seized very suddenly ; it commences with a sensation of heat in the regions of the stomach, and sickness, followed by vomiting, and purging of a fluid resembling rice water ; then follow cramps of the legs and arms, which gradually extend all over the body. An approaching attack may be recognised by the appearance of the face, the features of which seem sharper than usual, with great anxiety depicted on them. The only chance of recovery in cholera is to arrest it at its commencement ; should the disease be allowed to proceed to the collapsed stage, it generally proves fatal. When taken in the first stage, blood-letting, and a large dose of calomel, is first prescribed, with frictions of hot flannel to the skin, followed by doses of laudanum and brandy at intervals of about an hour.

I witnessed the other day an instance of the awful uncertainty of human life. I drank tea in the evening with a gentleman who lived opposite to me ; his wife was in the highest spirits, and kept us very merry. I parted with them at nine P. M., and at one next morning I was aroused from my slumbers by my friend, who informed me that



his wife was taken suddenly ill of cholera; he asked me for calomel and laudanum out of my private medicine chest, which I gave him. Next day, at ten A. M., I called to inquire for her, and found her stretched out a corpse on the table, and I attended her funeral the same afternoon.

I have now been three months and a half in Calcutta. The state of my health is far from satisfactory. Fever, liver complaint, and cholera, have left me a mere shadow—a walking ghost. I am daily becoming weaker. My medical attendant says, that nothing but a change of air, to Europe, has any chance of restoring me to health, and he has urged me to go home without delay, which advice I have resolved to follow.

It now becomes an interesting and instructive consideration how many adventurers from Europe have come out here, full of the hope of realising fortunes, and who, after two or three years' residence in this country, have either fallen victims to the climate, or their constitutions have received such a shock from disease, as to hold out no hopes of recovery here, and who have thus been forced to return home.

I have heard it stated, that of those Europeans who come to reside in India, (including Company's

recruits,) only three out of a hundred ever return to their native land. This is very disheartening to those adventurers who come to push their fortunes here, and is a fact that should not be lost sight of by parents who are looking to the East Indies as a provision for their sons. Surely when they think that there are thirty-three chances to one against their son's returning with a fortune, or indeed of his ever returning at all, they will pause before they send him here. My short career in India is not a solitary case. It has been the fate of thousands before me; but how many are there here, who, though sick unto death, and yearning to behold their native land, are not at liberty to depart, in consequence of their being almost buried in debt! These unfortunate men are truly to be pitied; they pine in perpetual exile till death puts an end to their sufferings.

It has been my desire to give a faithful picture of what awaits the Indian adventurer. I do not here speak of the civil servants of the Company, who enjoy exclusive privileges, but of free mariners, and all those unfriended adventurers who come out to India to fill subordinate situations at the Presidences, or on board ships, or up the country; and I now tell them that their chance of making

a fortune is small indeed ; their chance of health still smaller ; and that there are the most fearful odds against them ever returning with a fortune, or even with their “bare life” to the land of their birth.

## CHAPTER VIII.

" On full-spread wings our vessel sprang away,  
And far behind us foamed the ocean grey ;  
We saw, far off, the less'ning hills of India fly,  
Whilst, roaring through the tide, the nodding prow  
Points to the Cape, great nature's southmost bound :  
The Cape of tempests, now of hope renowned."

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12th January. After taking farewell of all my acquaintances, I hired a boat to convey me to Saugor Roadstead, where I embarked on board ship. I sailed from Saugor on the 21st January for England, to touch on the way at Madras, the Cape of Good Hope, and St Helena. I arrived at Madras on the 29th January, and the next day went ashore in a Mupolah boat. As I neared the shore, the surf had a very alarming appearance ; the extreme lightness of the boat, however, prevented it from being engulfed amid the waters. A tremendous wave came up astern, which

threatened to overwhelm us, but we rose on its bosom to an immense height, and were swept with great velocity towards the shore; wave after wave followed till the boat was cast high and dry on the land. When the surf takes the boat, the boatmen pull hard to prevent the wave as it recedes carrying the boat back, but notwithstanding all their exertions, boats are often capsised, and frequently some of the passengers are drowned or devoured by the sharks. A Catamaran generally attends the boat when danger is to be apprehended. A Catamaran is five or six logs of wood lashed firmly together, across which two or three natives sit, their legs doubled up under them. These Catamarans can land at Madras when no boats dare to venture, and they are often of great use in case of accidents in crossing the surf.

I remained three days on shore. The town of Madras is built on a flat line of coast. The European part of it consists of a number of country houses, in the middle of gardens, which are spread over several miles. Their handsome verandahs in front have a fine appearance; they are covered over with chunam plaster, the white glare from which has a rather unpleasant effect on the eyes. Business is principally transacted at Black Town, where the Portuguese and the natives reside, and

where the bazaars and shops are situated. The best houses in Black Town are built of brick, but by far the greater part are of mud, with tiled roofs, or bamboo cottages, thatched with leaves. These belong to the natives. The town is about four miles in circumference, and very populous.

In passing along the streets of Black Town, I saw boys and girls, from six to nine years of age, playing before the native huts in a state of nature; indeed it is rare for the children of the poorer classes, among the natives, to wear any clothing till past these years. I admired the beautiful symmetry of these chesnut-coloured urchins as they rolled about in the dust seemingly quite happy.

There is no place in the world where gossiping prevails to such an extent as at Madras—it even excels Edinburgh in this peculiar feature. This arises from the European residents having too little business of their own to engage their attention, and from the limited society met with here. The arrival of two or three large ships from Europe affords them a high treat, and the passengers, both male and female, have to undergo “a most severe scrutiny, and their manners and families are sure to become food for the scandal-mongers of the town during their stay.

I left Madras and joined the ship at six A. M. on the 3rd February, and at noon, the ship being all ready for sea, we sailed for England. When the boatswain piped "*all hands up anchor, for England, a-hoy!*" it was a joyful sound to all on board; the men walked merrily round the Capstan, while the fifer played "*The girl I left behind me.*"

We are again fairly embarked on the "wide waste of waters," and removed far away from the busy bustling world, with all its excitement of news and politics, buying, selling, and money-hunting; we feel a calm come over the mind which is very delightful, and we begin already, in anticipation, to hold sweet converse with our friends at home.

10th February, at four P. M., a fine young gentleman fell overboard, while he was in the act of drawing a bucket of water at the quarter-gallery window. The life buoy was cut adrift, and a boat immediately lowered down, and we were in great hopes of saving him, as he was an expert swimmer, but a large shark was observed with its back fin out of the water, swimming towards him, and before the boat could reach him the monster had seized his prey, and dived into the bowels of the deep.

25th February, at daylight, a suspicious-looking

strange sail was in sight. At two P. M. mustered all hands at quarters ; at three, came up with the stranger, which proved to be one of His Majesty's ships on a cruize. The Captain, after hailing us, came on board, and examined our papers. He was a regular old weather-beaten sailor, and his hat was as brown as his face. It is an occurrence of deep interest for one ship to meet another wandering across the deep. When they come near enough to hail each other, it is then a moment of great anxiety to all on board to catch the answer as it is borne on the blast ; only one or two questions can be put ere they separate to proceed upon their way over the lonely deep :

“ Alone across the pathless seas

The stately vessel glides,

With cloudless skies and favouring breeze

An ocean queen she rides.”

15th March. We have a great many passengers on board, and every evening, when the weather permits, the quarter-deck is converted into a ball-room : the awning is unfurled over the heads of the party, and the flags of all nations hung tastefully around the sides of the vessel ; the ropes and guns are kept out of sight, and the Capstan is covered with the ensign of Old England. The dancing is kept up till nine A. M.



26th March. We are now in the latitude of the Cape, and we are lying to in a gale of wind. A gale operates severely on delicate females; confined perhaps alone, or at all events with only their own sex in a cabin, lighted only by a dismal lamp, they tremble as they hear the roaring of the wind through the shrouds, and feel the mountain waves bursting forcibly on the ship's side, making her whole hull stagger, while at times whole green seas are hurled on board, which sweep away every article not securely lashed.

29th March. Arrived on Table Bay. I went ashore in the afternoon, and took up my lodgings at a hotel at the head of Cape Town.

Cape Town is built on Table Bay, and immediately at the back, Table Mountain rises precipitously. It is 3582 feet above the level of the sea. The principal inhabitants of Cape Town are Dutch. Slavery exists at this colony; many of the female slaves are kept for the basest purposes. They are sent out to ply their disgraceful calling, by the command of their masters or owners, to whom they must account regularly for the wages of iniquity, and it is alleged that they are sometimes cruelly flogged if they do not make up the sum their wicked master expects from them.

5th April. We sailed from the Cape, and on

the 19th April were in sight of St Helena ; we ran in for the roads, and anchored in twenty-one fathoms. We immediately commenced watering the ship, and we sailed again next day.

25th April, at ten A. M., saw the Island of Ascension bearing north. We are surrounded with a shoal of Albicores and Bonettoes ; they follow the ship, and keep swimming all round her. We have killed a great many of them by striking them with a pair of grains. They are good food, but if kept for the purpose of being cooked, they must not be exposed to the rays of the moon, as it is said they are thereby rendered of a poisonous quality.

14th June, at ten A. M., saw the Scilly Islands, bearing N. W. by N., and at noon the Agnes Light, N. by E.

20th June, at seven A. M., passed the Nore, and at eleven anchored at the bottom of Long Reach, when the Captain left the ship. So soon as we had dropped anchor, a boat brought off the letters for the ship. She had been absent from England more than fifteen months, and, during that time, hardly one of the ship's company had received intelligence from home ; the utmost anxiety consequently prevailed on board when the letters were delivered. I saw one of the passengers receive one with a black seal ; he turned very pale, and,

on opening it, found that it announced the intelligence of his father's death, which had happened some nine months before ; poor fellow, but a few minutes ago he was so happy, and said he would be sleeping to-night beneath his father's roof, and dwelt with delightful anticipation on the welcome that there awaited him ; but, alas ! he was doomed to feel the uncertainty of human expectation in its bitterest sense.

Shortly after this, a boat came from the shore with two very pretty young ladies on board. On arriving alongside, they inquired for their brother, who proved to be the young gentleman who had been devoured by the shark at sea. They had come on board to give him an agreeable surprise, and when they were told he was drowned, they became quite frantic, and fainted away in the boat.

As soon as we dropped anchor, the men commenced leaving the ship ; and truly, when they first go on shore, and regain their liberty, they are like so many birds which have escaped out of their cages : they fall an easy prey to the Jews and Cribbs who lie in wait for them. They generally live at some low public house, in a state of intoxication, till their money is all spent, and then they go and join another ship.

I went up to London by the evening tide, where I received letters from Edinburgh, which relieved me of all anxiety, by informing me that all my friends were well ; and in two days afterwards I sailed for Leith, and arrived at home, after a pleasant passage of four days.

“ Ah, what so happy as a mind at rest,  
When cares no more lie heavy on the breast :  
When tired of foreign travel we return  
To our own country, and at length discern  
The place which first we knew, which most we love,  
And in the bed which nursed us sleep.”

## GLOSSARY.

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*Brandy panee*—brandy and water.

*Beebee Sahub*—European lady.

*Buggy*—the name of a gig in India.

*Bobberchee*—a cook.

*Brahmins*—The sacred cast in India.

*Bungalow*—a cottage.

*Champaul Ghaut*—the name of a wharf at Calcutta.

*Coolies*—native porters.

*Chokidar*—watchman.

*Champo*—to knead or rub the body with the hand.

*Cheechee*—the nickname for half-cast ladies.

*Dandies*—boatmen.

*Fakier*—a religious mendicant.

*Hoondies*—bills of exchange.

*Hilsee Mutchu*—Indian fish.

*Hookah*—an Indian pipe for smoking tobacco.

*Hookahburdar*—the servant who has charge of the  
Hookah.

*Jungle*—a thicket in an uncultivated part of the  
country.

*Lack*—a number equal to one hundred thousand.

*Musoola boat*—a Madras surf boat.

*Manjee*—the steersman of a boat.

*Mantras*—prayers.

*Nautch*—a dance or ball.

*Pariah dog*—the native domestic dog.

*Paunchway*—native boat, with a bamboo cover in centre.

*Punko*—a large fan, suspended from the ceiling to produce artificial circulation of air.

*Rupee*—about 2s 4d sterling.

*Ryot*—cultivator of the ground.

*Sahub*—Sir or master.

*Salam*—the Indian mode of salutation.

*Tank*—an artificial pond.

*Tiffin*—lunch in India.

*Tom-toms*—the common drums in India.

*Tattoos*—small country horses.

*Viranda*—a portico, or piazza.

*Zemindars*—the collectors of the rent for the government in India.

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SIX WEEKS  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES  
AND  
CANADA.

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JOURNAL  
OF A  
WANDERER.

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PART II.

SIX WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES  
AND  
CANADA.

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CHAPTER I.

“ Star of the vast and howling main,  
When dark and lone is all the sky,  
And mountain waves o'er ocean's plain  
Erect their stormy heads on high ;  
When virgins for their true loves sigh,  
They raise their weeping eyes to thee—  
The star of ocean heeds their cry,  
And saves the foundering bark at sea.

*Ave Mariæ Stella.*

21st March 18—. I left Edinburgh at 10 A. M. on an excursion to the United States and Canada, by the way of Liverpool and New York. On my arrival at Liverpool, upon the 24th, I engaged a berth in the cabin of the ———, bound for New York.

6th April. We have fairly commenced our voyage ; the Captain having engaged a steamer

to tow us out five miles beyond the floating light, which lies about sixteen miles from Liverpool, we were taken in tow at eleven A. M. The wind in the morning was from the N. W., but about mid-day it fell calm. About one hundred vessels left Liverpool on the same day. We passed within a mile of the wreck of a vessel, lying on her beam ends on the sands. She proved to be the brig *Speedy*, from the coast of Africa, laden with palm-oil. We saw several casks of the palm-oil floating past. She was lost through the carelessness of the pilot, who was intoxicated: the crew were all saved.

8th April. A strange diversity of occupations may be observed among the passengers:

We have dancing on the main deck,  
And preaching down below ;  
We have swearing in the fore top  
As through the waves we go.

Among the passengers in the steerage there is a clergyman who performs family worship every evening to all who choose to attend ; but the Irish Roman Catholics take a great pleasure, during the service, in dancing Irish jigs upon deck, directly over his head, to prevent, I presume, what they consider the growth of heretical principles.

9th April. Blowing fresh from the S. E., ship

steering W. by S., rolling and pitching a good deal. Most of the passengers are sea sick, and consequently there is a great falling off in the consumption of provisions. The best specific for sea sickness is said to be a tumbler of salt water ; it acts as an emetic, and, by thoroughly cleaning the stomach, is the means of sooner restoring it to a healthy state than any thing else that can be taken. Should this remedy not prove sufficient, an occasional tumbler of luke-warm water, sprinkled with meal, will keep the stomach easy, and in some measure prevent the retching from paining the sides and bowels.

11th April. A strong breeze from the S. E., with cloudy weather and squalls at times. A few of the passengers are beginning to appear on deck. I have noticed an interesting young female among the inhabitants of the steerage, who keeps aloof from the others, and appears to be tinged with a shade of melancholy, if we may judge from her dejected looks and serious contemplative countenance. I felt a curiosity to know the particulars that had caused her to leave her native land. I entered into conversation with her, and learned that she was a native of Dalkeith, and had been in service in Edinburgh, where she became acquainted with a young man. It was a love story.

The youth had wanted to marry her previous to his setting sail for New York, whither he wished her to accompany him, but she, with becoming prudence, told him that if he succeeded in business she would follow him in two years. She is now on her way to join him. After a short while, I found that, among other accomplishments, “the gods had made her poetical,” and that to-day she had written some lines upon her present situation. It may be worth while to note them :

“ Sailing across the atlantic,  
To him whom I adore,  
I muse upon my lonely state,  
Amid the billows roar.  
  
I think upon the land I left,  
And all my friends so dear,  
Which makes my trembling heart to swell  
While I let fall a tear.

But there is one more dear to me  
Than all I left at home ;  
And for his sake I'll plough the waves  
And ride upon the foam,”

Poor girl ! I sincerely wish that when she arrives at the end of the voyage, she may be united to the object of her choice, and that they may long live happily together in the land of their adoption.

12th April. Blowing a gale of wind ; the ship rolling so much that we are often carried on our seats from one end of the cabin to the other—a process of locomotion by no means agreeable. At dinner, one of the passengers, in attempting to convey the contents of a plate full of pease soup into his stomach, was jolted out of his position, and ingeniously contrived to deposit the greater portion of the soup amid the recesses of his waistcoat and trousers pockets.

Among our cabin passengers we have a young couple, married only about two weeks before the vessel sailed. They came from an inland county in England, and neither of them had ever seen the sea before. I was amused with the lady, she seemed much pleased that she was so soon to see “the beautiful large waves,” as she termed them. “O,” says she, “how I shall love to look at them : dear me, I shall be so delighted. I do so much wish we may have a storm. I once saw a storm acted in the theatre in our county town ; it was *so* fine,—but a real storm, you know, must be a great deal finer. We lost the pitching of the ship, and the roaring of the wind and waves, and the smell of the tar. I do love the smell of tar *so* much.” They seemed a very happy couple, and no wonder, for their honeymoon was only pro-

gressing just then. The romance and sentiment of their former state had not yet left them :

They look'd up to the sky, whose floating glow  
Spread like a rosy ocean vast and brigt,  
They gazed upon the glittering sea below,  
Whence the broad moon rose circling into sight.

They heard the waves splash, and the wind so low,  
And saw each other's dark eyes darting light  
Into each other, and beholding this  
Their lips drew near, and clung into a kiss."

Alas ! that so much happiness should be so soon clouded. Scarcely had we got into blue water, when the happy couple were laid prostrate before father Neptune. I saw nothing of them for some days. This afternoon, when the gale had abated. I paid a visit to the lady. I found her in bed, very pale and dejected. I asked her how she felt. " O," says she, " I am so bad you have no idea, I have done nothing but vomit these four days past, and have suffered dreadfully. That nasty rude sea, I do detest it so—you cannot imagine how it used me last night. It threw me out of the bed, right over Mr B——, and I fell upon the deck ; the wrist of my right arm is sprained, and my body is all in a jelly with the vessel knocking me about so. I hope in the name of heaven we

wont have *no* more storms ; I am sure I shall die if we do."

13th April. This day being Sunday, the Captain proposed that we should have the parson on deck to give us " a word," to keep the crew and the low Irish in order. " I am not against religion," says he, " if you keep it in its proper place ; but catch me on the banks of Newfoundland, in a calm, on a Sunday, and see if I don't catch fish, although I had *a whole cargo of parsons* on board." Accordingly the minister was ushered up in form ; he was placed with his back to the Capstan, with a large barrel containing salt beef before him for his cushion. The more respectable of the passengers sat on stools in front of him, and the Irish tag-rag-and-bobtail made up the background of the congregation. The subject chosen by the clergyman was appropriate enough, but, as Napoleon has observed, " there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous," and this was fully exemplified on the present occasion by an **accidental** circumstance. Towards the conclusion of the service, the rolling of the ship, which had been momentarily increasing, caused the parson to lose his balance, and fall forward. In attempting to recover his equilibrium, he naturally made a grasp at the nearest object, which proved to be the bar-

rel of salt beef, and he clasped himself round it with both arms in the most desperate manner imaginable. The vessel was pitching rather briskly, and what with the lurching and the energetic seizure of the parson, the poor keg found it somewhat difficult to stand in the position in which it had been originally placed. Over it went, therefore, but still the parson held on like grim death. Then there was such a tumbling and scrambling about between the keg and the parson, all over the deck, that the whole congregation were quite upset with laughter : and thus were the lectures of the “ sage wise man ” brought to quite an unlooked-for termination.

15th April. Blowing fresh all night ; ship rolling very much at half-past six A. M. ; in a hard squall, the ship was twice struck with lightning, which carried away her fore and main-top masts, and stove a large hole in her side. The scene during the squall was awfully sublime ; the wind blew very hard, the rain descended in bucketsful, the thunderbolts could be seen in all directions flickering through the air, and then plunging into the sea.

After the second bolt struck the vessel, a death-like silence prevailed for the space of a minute. The master and crew were all struck down on the



deck apparently dead. So soon as the crew became sensible, some half dozen of them ran into the cabin, and throwing themselves on their faces on the floor, declared they could do no more,—that the foremast was gone, and that the lightning had gone through the ship's bottom, which had set her on fire. They lay in the cabin for some minutes, till the Master having recovered, got upon his legs again, and came to the cabin door calling out to his men to return to their duty. At the well-known voice of their commander, whom they supposed dead, they went forward to their work, and ultimately succeeded in extinguishing the fire and in stopping up the leak. When the ship was struck the second time, there were no less than two water-spouts on our starboard beam. One of them came so near, that it threatened to break over us and send us all to the bottom. The passengers were dreadfully alarmed; delicate females were to be seen, staggering about half frantic, *en chemises de nuit*; all modesty was banished for the time. As soon as the extent of our misfortune was ascertained, there was a general feeling of gratitude to God that we had escaped with such a trifling loss, compared with the magnitude of the danger. The Captain proposed running for the nearest port to refit the ship; but

as the accident occurred in the middle of the Atlantic ocean, about 1300 miles from land, we had but a gloomy prospect before us.

16th April. The wind moderated during the night. At daylight three vessels in sight, hoisted a signal of distress. The first vessel that came up with us, bore down and came under our stern ; she proved to be the brig *Primrose*, of and from Liverpool, bound to Quebec. We informed her of our situation, and craved a spar for a top-mast, but the master had none to spare. The Admiral *Benbow*, from Liverpool to Quebec, next bore down to us, and the Captain kindly gave us a top-mast, which in some degree relieved us from our helpless state.

21st April. When I went on deck this morning, I found we had an Irishman's hurricane, or the wind right up and down—that is, a dead calm. At eleven A.M. a large fish was observed, about twelve yards astern, swimming after the ship : the top fin alone was visible for a time. It approached us, and raising its head a little out of the water, discovered itself to be a large blue shark, evidently in a very hungry humour, and particularly anxious for whatever garbage we might be pleased to bestow. Seeing this we determined to give the youth a small bit of astonishment, so we got a

shark hook and baited it with about six lbs. of pork, and threw it over the stern, taking care to make fast the other end to a bolt in the ship. The bait had not been in the water more than two minutes, when the shark got his eye upon it; he came swimming slowly up, turned half over on his back, and making a dart at it, fairly swallowed it, hook and all. As soon as he found himself in limbo, he became furious, lashed the water with his tail, and struggled so, that we expected the rope every moment to give way. We run out all the rope we could; gradually his struggles became fainter and fainter. We then succeeded in hauling him on board, but his courage was not yet quite cooled, for no sooner was he deposited on the quarter-deck than he commenced a precious tumult, lashing about him furiously with his tail, so much so that it was dangerous to go near him. With a view of putting a period to the catastrophe, the Captain called for the carpenter's axe, and cut off the tail and the head, and this was certainly the means of effectually quieting him; still, although decapitated, it was not advisable to venture too near the severed portions, as it is a well-established fact that the head of a shark, after having been separated from the body, has more than once bit off a man's hand. The specimen we caught mea-

sured twelve feet three inches long. It had three rows of teeth, or, in a nautical parlance, three decks of grinders ; each tooth was in the form of a lancet, and quite as sharp. Its jaws, when extended, could, with the utmost facility, have allowed the ingress of any human body ; and I daresay, had the fish been entire, we would have had some of the Irishmen in the steerage walking down his throat and coming out again, for a wager. On dissecting the shark, we found five young ones, each about a foot in length ; as also a shoe, a hairy cap, and a small-tooth comb, that had been lost overboard the night before.

1st May. At nine A. M. one of the children in the steerage, who had been ill for some days previous, died. At six P. M. we committed the body of the little innocent to the rude waves of the atlantic :

He died, far, far from home and friends,  
Upon the atlantic wave ;  
The shark swims by, the wild sea-gull  
Is hovering o'er his grave.

We all assembled on deck, and the clergyman offered up a suitable prayer on the occasion. There were no outward symbols of woe,—no crape, no weepers,—no pomp and pageantry,—but the hearts

of all were deeply affected ; like Hamlet, they had “ that within which passeth show.” The bustle of the busy world, with all its thoughts and cares, was effectually excluded, and every thing we saw around reminded us of the omnipotence and omnipresence of the great ruler of the universe.

5th May. A steady breeze from the N. N. E., and fine clear weather. The new married lady is very unwell to-day. She was quite delirious last night. She raved about drowning, storms, sharks, and lightning, all night. The doctor gave her some cooling powders, and she is rather easier this afternoon.

6th May. The wind shifted at midnight to E. S. E., and became quite fair. We have set our studding sails on both sides, which makes us skim through the water like an eagle winging its way through the sky :—

“ And oh ! in the wild hour of night,  
When loud winds are hush'd to a breeze,  
With music and moonbeams so bright  
'Tis heaven to glide o'er the seas.”

At 10 A. M. the alarm was given of a man over-board. The deck was covered in a minute, all exclaiming at one time, “ where is he ; who is he ?” The helm was put hard a starboard, which

brought the ship's head up to the wind, and stopped her way through the water. The boat was about to be lowered down, when we discovered the unfortunate man about twelve yards astern, holding on for bare life to a rope. The men hauled him on board half drowned, and we were not a little astonished to find, in the interesting sufferer, our own assistant-cook and valet-de-chambre—a Milesian. The poor fellow had been drawing a bucket full of salt water, to wash the potatoes for dinner, but having leaned too far over the ship's side, by a natural consequence he lost his balance, and fell headlong into the sea; luckily the rope he had in his hand was attached to one of the sails, which, when the slack ran out, brought him to. I shall never forget the comical expression of his countenance when he got on board, and how, on being questioned as to the cause of the accident, he exclaimed, “Och! your honour, I was after cleaning the taters, but sure and I have cleaned myself instead.”

At three P. M. a land bird was seen flying round the ship, which lighted on the main yard. The poor desolate wanderer had doubtless been blown to sea in a gale of wind. It appeared quite worn out, and though it remained about the ship all the evening, it did not venture near

the deck, where crumbs of bread were thrown down for it.

“ Bird of the greenwood,  
Oh ! why art thou here :  
Leaves dance not o’er thee,  
Flowers bloom not near.  
How shouldst *thou* battle  
With storm and with spray :  
Bird of the greenwood, ♦  
Away, away !”

10th May. When I awoke this morning, I was exceedingly sorry to learn that the new-married lady was dangerously ill. She had been in a burning fever for some days. She raved wildly about her dear mother ; talked of taking a walk in the front of the house ; and begged her husband, by the love he bore her, to bring her a drink of new milk. The poor man looked quite “ in amazement lost.” “ O, Sarah,” says he, “ you know my dear you are on board the ——.” These words immediately gave birth to a train of the most painful ideas in the poor lady’s mind. “ O take me out of this horrible ship,” she cried, “ and put me upon any shore you please.” Then, after a pause, she went on, “ O take away that monstrous shark ! I see it follows the ship ! I know it is waiting for me ! I am so afraid ! O, do, for God’s sake, Captain, turn back the ship, and take me home to my mother !” After raving for some time, she at length fell back in a faint into her husband’s arms.

The weather is very gloomy, and we are surrounded by dark clouds, which, as they pass over us, inundate our decks with rain :—

“ When ’tis night, and the mid-watch is come,  
And chilling mists hang o’er the darken’d main,  
Then sailors think of their far distant home,  
And of those friends they ne’er may see again.”

18th May—Sunday. The new-married lady is now out of danger, and is recovering slowly. The minister proposed preaching, as usual, this afternoon ; but the ignorant Irish, and the superstitious sailors, were so opposed to it, that they declared they would stop him if he attempted to do so. He wisely gave way to the tide of popular opinion which had set in against him, as he found himself in a disgraceful minority. No sooner was his resolution known than the sailors assured us we should have a fair wind ; and it is a singular fact that about five P. M. a fair wind sprung up, which put us all into excellent spirits.

“ Merrily, merrily, goes the bark,  
Before the gale she bounds ;  
So starts the dolphin from the shark,  
Or the stag before the hounds.”

19th May. A steady breeze carrying us gently along. Saw a great many vessels all steering for



one point. Passed a number of sloops at anchor, fishing for mackerel. At ten A. M. I went out to the jib-boom end, and sat there watching for the first glimpse of the land, which we expected to make about twelve or one o'clock P. M. Shortly afterwards the land was seen by the cook, who gave out the gladsome tidings; and "land! land! land!" resounded from every tongue, and joy was diffused over every face. I sat feasting my eyes on it as it gradually became more and more distinct. At length I could distinguish the trees and the houses. The wind from the land was very warm. I was sensible of it whenever we got fairly under its lee. A pilot came on board about four P. M., and took charge of the ship. We passed the lighthouse at Sandy Hook at half-past six P. M., and in other two hours got through the Narrows, formed by Staten Island and Long Island, and anchored abreast of the city of New York between nine and ten P. M.

The view in sailing up from the lighthouse to the city, a distance of eighteen miles, is very grand. Any attempt at description on my part would utterly fail, so I shall content myself with saying, that although I have sailed into harbours in many parts of the globe, I never saw anything finer than the entrance into New York harbour.

## CHAPTER II.

" He finds his fellow guilty of a skin  
Not colour'd like his own; and having power  
T' enforce the wrong, for such a worthy cause  
Dooms and devotes him as his lawful prey."

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I landed at New York on the 20th May, and took up my lodgings in a boarding-house in Pearl Street. New York, which at some future period is perhaps destined to be the greatest city in the world, is built upon an island bearing the same name. It was formerly called Manhattan Island, but was afterwards changed to New York, in honour of the then Duke of York. The city was founded by the Dutch in 1615, under the name of New Amsterdam. The island on which the city stands is fifteen miles long, and from one to three miles broad. It is bounded on the east by East

River; on the south by the harbour; on the north by Harlaem River; and on the west by the Hudson River. The harbour, which is large, being about twenty-five miles in circumference, can receive the largest ships, which can go close up to the wharfs to load and unload. The tides rise and fall about six feet, but there is always water enough abreast the piers to float the vessels. The wharfs are built on both sides of the city; but the most of the shipping lies on the east side. The mouth of the harbour is called the Narrows. It is eight miles from the city. A fortification of great strength is built on both sides at this place, which all ships bound for New York must necessarily pass. The battery lies on the S. W. point of the city; it is a fashionable promenade; and in the evenings the view of the bay, and the cool sea breeze, render it both pleasing and refreshing. To a person who has seen London and Paris, there is nothing to attract his particular attention in New York. Broadway is decidedly the finest street in the city. It extends about three miles in length, and is eighty feet wide. Many of the shops are got up in the first style, with marble fronts; and the hotels would do credit to any city in the world. The baths are superb; and the boarding-houses, of

which there are a great number, are convenient, and reasonable in their charges.

Broadway, and most of the principal streets, run north and south, and these are crossed by others running to the rivers on each side. The northern part of the city is of modern date, and is erected in a style of great elegance. Many of the houses have granite and marble fronts, with *name plates, door handles, and bell-pulls made of solid silver*—rather a foolhardy sort of experiment in a city abounding with the refuse of other nations living in a state of the utmost destitution and poverty. The houses in the centre of the city are generally built of brick, but there are in the suburbs a great many wooden tenements. The City Hall is the finest building; the front and sides are built of white marble, with the exception of the ground flat, which is of stone. I think it is a pity that mistaken economy should have induced such a proceeding, as the appearance of the ground flat spoils the look of the rest of the building, and after all, the saving effected must have been exceedingly paltry. An immense deal of business is done at New York, and the citizens are sharp business men, more particularly the brokers; indeed they have a saying here, “if a leech will not

bite, bind him apprentice to a Share-broker for a week, and his teeth will become so sharp that he will bite through the bottom of a brass kettle." Fanaticism prevails to a great extent. A merchant here, when he gave orders on his banker for charitable purposes, was in the habit of writing, " Pay to the order of the Lord the sum of," and he kept a regular account in his books with the Lord, in which he was debited for all sums spent in charity, or for religious purposes.

There are a great many barbers in New York, and their shops are much frequented by respectable persons. The charge for shaving is sixpence York, equivalent to threepence English money. In some of the shops one side of the wall is fitted up with pigeon holes, where the soap-boxes are kept, and each customer has his name labelled on the one set apart for him. This is a good plan, and might be adopted with advantage in England and Scotland, in places where barbers have a regular set of customers. Most of the steam-boats and hotels have a barber as a part of their establishment. Many of them are coloured people.

New York has the carrying trade of a great part of the goods consumed in the northern and western parts of the United States. Some thousands of strangers are daily landing, but more par-

ticularly in the Spring months, from all parts of the old world, and from many parts in the interior of the new. People from every nation may be seen walking in Broadway, and heard speaking in every language in use on the face of the earth, not excepting the unknown tongues. New York may be said to be a miniature of London. The air, however, is very different, as it is here pure and clear. I do not consider New York a healthy place ; the variations in the temperature are very great, and sometimes sudden, and in consequence pulmonary complaints prevail to a great extent, which too often end in consumption, and it is said that consumption carries off as many persons in New York, taking the average of a few years together, as the yellow fever does in New Orleans.

The Park Theatre is an elegant house, something like the English Opera House, London, or the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. I observed the gallery was divided by a railing through the centre ; one half was set apart for white persons, and the other half for coloured people, who are much despised here, and every occasion taken to shew them insult, although for what reason no stranger can discover. This prejudice, to use no harsher term, is a blot on the American nation, which it is difficult to reconcile with the character

of Christians, and of professed advocates of liberty and equality. During the farce, I was more amused at seeing so many ebony faces upon the broad grin, all at one and the same time, than with what was going on upon the stage. Their white teeth, which they took care to display to the utmost perfection, contrasted oddly with their jet-black physiognomies.

24th May. Being anxious to proceed to York, (now called Toronto) with as little delay as possible, I left New York on my way to Upper Canada, this day at five P. M. I proceeded to Albany in a steam-boat called the Fanny; the distance is 144 miles. Between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, the sky became suddenly overcast, the forerunner of a squall. It continued for some hours, during which the lightning was so very vivid, that my eyes were much affected by it. Each flash illuminated the whole sky, as well as the river and the banks; and had it only been a little hotter, the scene would have resembled what my imagination has painted his satanic majesty's dominions to be.

25th May—Sunday. When coming upon deck this morning at six o'clock, I was perfectly astonished with the beauty of the scenery on both sides of the Hudson. I had read in novels and romances

of such places, but until this morning I never believed such scenes existed. The only place that I know bearing any resemblance to it, is the Trosachs in the Western Highlands of Scotland. The landscape here is certainly not so wild, nor the hills so high, but still when you behold the noble river studded on both sides of its banks with splendid mansions, and the Highland or Fiskhill Mountains in the back ground, extending twenty miles on both sides of the Hudson, and towering 1400 feet above the river, you cannot fail to be delighted. The beautiful and the sublime are here magnificently contrasted. Mountains covered with a forest of trees, impenetrable even to the footsteps of the wild Indians. Lawns, mansions, farm-houses, and villages, altogether make up, as the vessel glides through the water, a moving panorama which is quite enchanting. Little regard is paid to the Sabbath on board the Fanny. The second Captain and another American are playing on the flute, and the Captain is shooting at the eagles with a rifle loaded with ball:

The first trial of steam navigation was made on the River Hudson, between New York and Albany; and the celebrated projector, Fulton, in a letter to a friend, thus narrates the progress and successful issue of his experiment:—



“ When I was building my first steam-boat,” says he, “ the project was viewed by the public at New York, either with indifference or contempt, as a visionary scheme. My friends indeed were civil, but they were shy ; they listened with patience to my explanations, but with a settled cast of incredulity on their countenances. I felt the full force of the lamentation of the poet :—

‘ Truths would you teach to save a sinking land,  
All shun, none aid you, and few understand.’

“ As I had occasion to pass daily to and from the building yard, while my boat was in progress, I have often loitered unknown, near the idle groups of strangers gathering in circles, and heard various inquiries as to the object of this new vehicle. The language was uniformly that of scorn, sneer, or ridicule. The loud laugh rose at my expense, the dry jest, the wise calculation of losses and expenditure, the dull but endless repetition of “ The Fulton Folly,” never did a single encouraging remark, or bright hope, or a warm wish, reach my ear.

“ At length the day arrived when the experiment was to be made. To me it was a most trying and interesting occasion. I wanted my friends to go on board, and witness the first successful

trip. Many of them did me the favour to attend as a matter of personal respect, but it was manifest they did it with reluctance, fearing to be partners of my mortification and not of my triumph. I was well aware that in my case there were many reasons to doubt of my own success. The machinery was new and ill made ; and many parts of it were constructed by mechanics unacquainted with such work ; and unexpected difficulties might reasonably be presumed to present themselves from other causes. The moment arrived in which the word was to be given for the vessel to move. My friends were in groups on the deck. There was anxiety mixed with fear among them. They were silent, sad, and weary. I read in their looks nothing but disaster, and almost repented of my efforts. The signal was given, and the boat moved on a short distance, and then stopped, and became immovable. To the silence of the preceding moment now succeeded murmurs of discontent and agitation, and whispers, and shrugs. I could hear distinctly repeated, ‘ I told you so—it is a foolish scheme—I wish we were well out of it.’ I elevated myself on a platform, and stated that I knew not what was the matter ; but if they would be quiet, and indulge me for half-an-hour, I would either go on or abandon the voyage. I went below, and

ascertained that a slight mal-adjustment was the cause. It was obviated. The boat went on ; we left New York ; we passed through the Highlands ; we reached Albany !—yet, even then, imagination superseded the force of fact. It was doubted if it could be done again ; or if it could be made, in any case, of any great value.”

His countrymen were slow to appreciate the value of his discovery, but could this great man see the extent and perfection to which steam-navigation has now been brought, it would be a proud triumph to him for all the mortifications he endured from his cold and doubting friends.

We arrived at Albany, at half-past nine P. M., and as it was inconvenient to be inquiring after lodgings at that late hour, I preferred sleeping in the boat all night.

26th May. I rose at half-past four A. M., and took a long ramble through Albany to see the public buildings and principal streets. This city, being the next to New York in size, in the State of New York, and being the capital of the State, is a place of great consequence ; and as the Erie Canal terminates here, the commerce carried on with the interior of the country is very great. There is a Shaker settlement eight miles from Albany, at a place called Niskayuna. This reli-

gious sect are followers of an enthusiast of the name of Ann Lee, originally from England. She, like many other fanatics, laid claim to miracles and visions from heaven—and there never yet was a doctrine, however absurd, that did not find proselytes. She was a great enemy to matrimony, her chief and leading doctrine being celibacy, probably for the best of all reasons. I felt regret that my limited time prevented me paying a visit to this settlement. The Shakers, I am told, may be known by their walk, which is any thing but graceful. They believe that they are the only true church, and that, by the “Second Dispensation,” that is, by the appearance of Ann Lee, the Old and New Testaments are now become useless. They call their Bible “Christ’s Second Appearance.” Those who join their society give up all their worldly possessions to the church. The Shakers receive young children of any age into their society. Unless there was some arrangement of this kind the members would soon all die out.

When they perform their religious services it is accompanied with a peculiar motion, between dancing and shaking, to which they add a monotonous song.

The creed of this fanatical sect is as follows :—  
“Christ has discovered himself a second time on earth in the person of Ann Lee.

“ God is only with them, and there is no spiritual salvation without them.

“ The day of judgment is now. God judges the world through his daughter Ann Lee.

“ Those who marry do not know Christ, and do not belong to his kingdom.

“ Without confessing, none can be blessed.

“ Every one must submit to purgatory after death : and all those who have died after Mother Ann, must, in the first instance, listen to a discourse delivered by her in the world of spirits, before they are permitted to leave the purifying fire.”

A love affair took place not long ago, which ended in a marriage, and the consequent exclusion of the happy couple. *O tempora ! O mores !*

I travelled by railway from Albany to Schenectady, a distance of fifteen miles. I took my seat in the train which started at half-past six o'clock. The coach was impelled by steam, and arrived in an hour. I breakfasted at a hotel at Schenectady, and as the canal boat for Buffalo was not to start till half-past eleven A.M., I had time to take a walk through the town : but I saw nothing of particular notice. The town supports two newspapers, and contains two banks, with a population of about 5000. It was formerly a place of considerable business ; but since the formation of the Erie Canal,

it has fallen off very much, as goods are now forwarded direct to Albany without stopping at Schenectady. This shows the uncertain value of property in this new world. The making of a canal or a rail-road ruins some towns, while it enriches others.

Precisely at twelve noon, I started from Schenectady, on board the Erie Canal traders' line boat, the Saranac, on my way to Toronto. The Erie Canal is an undertaking which was begun under the patronage of the State, on the 4th day of July 1817, and was finished in 1825, at an expense of seven millions of dollars. The length of the canal is 363 miles, commencing at Albany, and terminating at Buffalo; thus uniting the waters of the Hudson and Erie. The canal is 40 feet wide at the top, and 28 at the bottom. The water in the canal is four feet deep, and the tow path is four feet above the surface of the water, and 10 feet wide. There are 83 locks, and 18 aqueducts, in the whole line; and the rise and fall of the locks is 688 feet. Lake Erie is 568 feet higher than the Hudson river. There are a great many wooden bridges across the canal, and they are made so low, that when the boat passes under them, the top or roof of the boat comes sometimes within about a foot of the arch of the bridge, which causes the passen-

gers to descend every time they pass through a bridge. This is not only troublesome, but sometimes accidents occur, and lives are lost through neglect. We have in the boat an American family, consisting of the father, mother, three sons, and a pretty daughter. I requested the daughter to favour me with a song, and she sang a favourite Scotch song, "Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon." When I looked, around and saw the Mohawk river winding beneath, and the mountains of the Mohawk towering above, I remembered I was far from the Land of Cakes, and the words of the song recalled a thousand pleasing recollections of home.

By sunset we got the length of Amsterdam, which lies low, and close to the banks of the Mohawk river. The village contains about one hundred houses. A creek passes through it, and there are some beautiful natural cascades in the neighbourhood, which will, in the course of time, be valuable for manufacturers.

27th May. The Captain of the boat has just put into my hands a circular addressed to him from the Canal Temperance Society for the State of New York. It states, that "its object is to promote the entire disuse of ardent spirits by those engaged in canal navigation." It goes on to say,

“ We seek this object, because, from evidence which appears to our minds irresistible, we believe that ardent spirits, as a drink, is useless under any circumstances of labour, fatigue, or exposure ; *that it is injurious to health, to character, to the mind, to the morals, and to property.* The proof of this meets us on every side,—flows upon us in an irresistible torrent ; we have seen it. The use of ardent spirits, even moderately as a drink, very often ends in drunkenness and its attendant vices. Of all the drunkards we have ever seen, not one became intemperate at once. There were degrees in his career downwards ; first a moderate drinker, then a free drinker, then a tippler, and finally a sot. *The only perfectly safe path is the path of total abstinence from strong drink.*”

Four-fifths of all crimes committed in the United States may be traced to drunkenness as the prime cause ; and out of seventy-seven persons found dead in various parts of the country, sixty-seven were declared by the coroner’s inquest to have perished from excessive drinking ; indeed, the number of individuals in America, who, by indulgence in this vice, descend to a premature grave, has been calculated to fall little short of thirty thousand every year, besides many who become insane from the same cause. In Scotland, when a man is



drunk, they say he is *fou*, which is the name in France for a madman.

At noon, we came in sight of Little Falls, a pretty little village, most romantically situated. It takes its name from a fall close by, which is small, the descent being only a few feet. They are called the Little Falls to distinguish them from the falls of the Cahoes, on the Mohawk, which are great. At this village, a chain of the Catsberg hills crosses the river. On one side of the town are seen the waters dashing among the rocks, and, on the other, stupendous and rugged cliffs. A little higher up, the river is moving smoothly along, and the view is filled up by the vale of the Mohawk, with its fruitful fields and farm houses, all conspiring to give the place a truly romantic appearance.

It is a common practice in this country to pluck the geese alive every two months. The feathers form a perquisite to the daughters of the farmers, and by this means they provide feather beds for their marriages. I should hope such cruelty has often the effect of scaring away their beaux :

“ For I *guess* that she ne’er can be true,  
Who could rob a poor goose of its cover ;  
And the maid who can pluck one alive  
Will make but a hard-hearted lover.”

At eight P. M. we arrived at Utica, where I left the boat, having resolved to travel from Utica to Oswego by the mail coach. I stopped for the night at a very extensive establishment, the Canal Coffee-house. I have observed that there is a regularity and civility to travellers generally in the hotels, which reflects credit on the Americans. They seem anxious to appear to advantage in the eyes of strangers, and to impress them with a favourable opinion of the national character. They are, however, fond of dealing in the marvellous. They had a Colonel David Crocket to whom they attributed uncommon powers. The Colonel at one time was a candidate for Congress, and was opposed by a gentleman who seldom addressed a person or a company without wearing upon his countenance a peculiarly good-humoured smile. The Colonel, to counteract the influence of this winning attribute, thus alluded in his speech to him: "Yes, gentlemen, he may get some votes by *grinning*, for he can *outgrin* me, and you know I aint slow. You all know I love hunting. Well, I discovered a long time ago, that a 'coon could'nt stand my grin. I could bring one tumbling down from the highest tree. I never wasted powder and lead when I wanted one of the critturs. Well, as I was walking out one night, a few hun-

dred yards from my house, I saw a 'coon planted upon one of the highest limbs of an old tree, so I thought I'd bring him down in the usual way *by a grin*. I set myself—and after grinning at the 'coon a reasonable time, found that he did not come down. I wondered what was the reason,—and I took another steady grin at him. Still he was there. I then grinned my best for about five minutes—but the cursed 'coon hung on. So finding I could not bring him down by grinning, I determined to have him, for I thought he must be a droll chap. I went over to the house, got my axe, and returned to the tree; saw the 'coon still there, and began to cut away. Down it came, and I ran forward, but no 'coon was there to be seen. I found that what I had taken for one was a large knot upon a branch of the tree, and upon looking at it closely, I saw that *I had grinned all the bark off, and left the knot perfectly smooth.*”

There is a story told that “money was so scarce in Indiana, that racoon skins passed current, being handed from one person to another; but that some Yankees forged these notes, by sewing a racoon's tail to a cat's skin, and thus destroyed the currency.”

The Colonel's description of himself has been made use of by Dr Bird in his exquisite Romance

of “ Nick of the Woods,” for the description of one of his chief characters. He styled himself “ half horse and half aligator ; a little touched with the snapping turtle ; can wade the Mississippi ; leap the Ohio ; ride upon a streak of lightning, and slip without a scratch down a honey locust ; can whip his weight in wild cats ; hug a bear too close for comfort, and eat any man opposed to Jackson.”

### CHAPTER III.

“ There's a track upon the deep,  
And a path across the sea ;  
But the weary ne'er return  
To their ain countrie !”

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28th May. At four A. M. I set off by the mail for Oswego, and although it is seated for nine persons inside, (no passengers being carried outside,) I was the only passenger. The mail differs from the coaches in Britain, in having a seat in the middle of the coach, which holds three persons, and a leather belt about five inches broad is placed across the inside of the coach to support their backs. I had not gone far before I found land travelling in America to be very disagreeable. If I say the roads are bad, I would not use strong enough lan-

guage, for *certainly* they are most execrable. The jolting is dreadful. When the driver comes to a hole in the road, where he might possibly stick, he drives faster than usual, in order that the impetus thus given may jerk the coach out again. The first stage I came to was at a small village called Rome, where I breakfasted.

The Americans have the bad taste to name many of their towns and villages after cities renowned in Ancient History. As almost all the States adopt this practice, there are, in the different States, at least a dozen of towns called Athens, and about as many named Rome. Indeed, they seem greatly at a loss for names to their towns, having no less than fifteen counties and forty towns called Jefferson; eight counties and sixty-six towns called Jackson, or Jacksonvilles; twenty counties and eighty towns called Washington. This practice leads to great confusion, and might be easily obviated by adopting the Indian names, as has been lately done at York, in Upper Canada, which is now called *Toronto*.

On leaving Rome, two passengers took their seats in the coach. After we had travelled a considerable way, we came to a narrow pass, not more than four or five feet broader than the coach, with deep ravines on either side, so deep, that I could

not see the bottom, but only the tops of the tall trees which grew in the abyss below.

The land between Rome and Williamston is not very good ; a great part of it is covered with pine, which is a sign of inferior land. I arrived at Williamston about two P. M., where I dined, and where my fellow-travellers left me alone once more. For the next twenty miles I had to pass through the forest ; the trees were felled on both sides of the road, and lay where they had fallen ; in some cases they had fallen across the road, and then that part which was on the road was sawed off ; the stumps stood about three feet from the ground. Here and there a partial attempt had been made to burn the timber, and the black appearance of the half-burnt wood threw a gloom around which the dark forest tended to increase. In one place, the fallen timber was on fire ; the smoke from the flames, the heat of the sun right over my head, the hot dust raised by the wheels of the coach, and the close confined state of the air from the thick forest around, together with the dreadful jolting, almost suffocated me. I think it requires a bold heart for a man, with nothing but an axe, and a few tools and provisions, to settle down in these woods. The first sight of the forest,

and the hardships to be endured, are calculated to appal even the stoutest heart.

I passed several log-houses, where I saw the settlers with their patches of cleared land, the stumps standing, and a few sheep and pigs feeding hard by. The fences are of wood, placed in a zig-zag direction. When I arrived within about twenty miles of Oswego, I found the land along the road side was well cleared ; but the stumps of the trees were in many places still standing. It takes seven years before the roots become rotten, and the stumps in a fit state to be removed from the soil. It was nine P. M. before I reached Oswego, thus taking seventeen hours to travel seventy-five miles. The steam-boat for Toronto had sailed half an hour before my arrival ; and the Oswego steamer, which ought to have sailed next day, was so damaged, in consequence of having been driven on shore in a gale, that she was under repair, so the earliest conveyance I could have to Toronto was the steam-boat, on Friday evening, for which I resolved to wait. I took up my lodgings at the Welland House, or hotel, kept by Mr Spencer. It is situated on the banks of the Oswego river, which runs through the town, and is near the wharf, from which the steam-boats sail, and, on that account, well adapted for travellers.



29th May. I rose at ten A. M. and took a saunter through the town ; in passing through one of the streets, I saw on a sign, “ ready-made coffin warehouse.” I stood looking at this strange, and to me, unusual announcement, for about a minute, when the store-keeper, no doubt thinking me a likely customer, stepped briskly forward and handed me his shop-bill, wherein he requests the public to call and examine the article for themselves ; at the same time alleging that he is ready to preserve his customers, when dead, from all smell and putrefaction, in the warmest weather, for any reasonable time, say from one to ten days : N. B. “ a respectable person will always be ready to lay out the dead.”

Oswego is a small town, containing about 5000 inhabitants. The river of the same name, which here falls into Lake Ontario, runs through it. The river is about 150 yards wide, and is crossed by a bridge, which is supported by seven wooden arches. A charge is made of one cent. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d sterling) for each foot passenger who passes along it. The Welland House is an excellent house. I have a single-bedded room, which is a luxury I have not enjoyed since I left home ; my shoes are cleaned by a man of colour ; the board is excellent, and includes brandy, beer, and cyder ; the charge by the

day is a dollar ; no extra charge for servants ; and the master of the house waits upon us during dinner, along with the waiters. When I left the house, he sent my luggage on board the steamer with his own cart, and drove me down himself in his own carriage to the boat free of expense. The steam-boat, expected on Friday evening, did not arrive, which detained me at Oswego till nine P. M. on Saturday evening, when I set sail on board the St George steamer for Toronto.

1st June. When I got upon deck this morning, I found myself out of sight of land. I could hardly believe I was sailing on a fresh water lake, it was so different from the lakes at home.

Lake Ontario is 180 miles in length, and varies from 30 to 60 miles in breadth. The water is pure, and said to be very deep. It abounds with salmon, sturgeon, and various other kinds of fish.

We had a great many deck passengers in the steam-boat, many of whom were emigrants. I met with a family from Edinburgh, consisting of about twenty-five persons, all related to one another, either by blood or marriage. They were proceeding to a settlement in Upper Canada. I had a long conversation with them. They all seemed to regret leaving home, and were quite dissatisfied with the climate, the country, and the people. I

tried to comfort them by telling them that they would like it better when they became accustomed to the change ; but it would not do. I could not impress upon their minds the truth of the old adage, that “ use is second nature,” and that even eels have tacitly acknowledged it, and submitted quietly to the operation of having themselves skinned, when they found they couldn’t make a better of it. I saw they were all *home-sick*, as too many of their countrymen are when they first come here :—

“ They sigh for Scotia’s shore,  
And they gaze across the sea,  
But they canna get a blink  
O’ their ain countrie.”

This feeling of love for their native country is more strongly implanted in the Scotch, than either in the English or Irish, and, consequently, they feel the pang of separation more keenly. It is a trait in their character which does them honour ; but it is the cause of much unhappiness, and too often paralyzes their exertions, and even brings on disease. In a conversation I had in the steam-boat on Lake Ontario, with two farmers, among other things, they mentioned a peculiar method of courtship practised among the farmers or land-

proprietors in the United States :—When a *marrying-man* pays a visit to a neighbour, where there is a marriageable daughter, if the young lady feels disposed to encourage his addresses, she detains him after the usual hour at which the family retire to rest, for the parents leave the daughter to manage the affair in her own way. Thus the happy couple are left to themselves. They can sit chatting, and making love all night ; and under these peculiar circumstances, such consequences often follow as render it almost imperative that he should marry her. The laws in the United States are very severe in all cases of refractory gallants,—heavy damages, long imprisonment, or *marriage*, are the alternatives. This is what is called “sparking” in America ; and is somewhat similar to the mode of courtship which exists among the Indians. The Indian lover is permitted during the night to approach the couch of his beloved, while she is reposing : it is customary to take a light with him, and gently to pull the covering till he awakens her. If his company is agreeable, she rises up and blows out the light, but if she hide her head beneath the blanket, it is a *broad hint* to be off, and the disappointed lover immediately retires ; but if he is made welcome, he pays his addresses at the side of her couch, and

the next day he appears before her lodge, and commences playing upon his flute. The young women go out one by one to see who he is playing for. The tune changes to let them know he is not playing for them. When his intended makes her appearance at the door, he continues his court-ing tune until she returns into the lodge. During the first year after marriage they ascertain whether they can agree with each other ; if not, they part, and try to make themselves better elsewhere. No matter how many children the female brings home, she is always welcome. Many civilized countries would do well to consider whether it would not be adviseable for them to adopt this system. It would most assuredly tend to prevent divorce and concubinage, and render inexpressibles an unfashionable wear for the ladies, while, at the sametime, if the fair creatures felt themselves uncomfortable, they could change their situation annually for a better, if such presented itself.

We touched at Cobourg, a town on the Canada side of Lake Ontario, to land and receive passengers, at eleven A. M. ; and at one P. M. we called at another town called Port Hope, for the same purpose. As the wind was fair, we hoisted our sails in addition to the steam, which propelled us along in fine style ; and by six P. M. we had arrived

alongside of the wharf at Toronto, where I landed and took up my lodgings at the British Coffee House.

Toronto is the capital of Upper Canada, and is situated near the head of Lake Ontario, on the north side of the harbour, which is formed by a long sandy peninsula, stretching from the land east of the town to a point called Gibraltar Point, abreast of the present fort. The streets cross each other at right angles. The principal street is King Street, which runs through the centre of the town from east to west, and is about a mile and a-half long. A number of half-pay officers, with their noses in scarlet uniform, may be seen strutting about the town and lounging about the hotels. They are chiefly from Ireland, and talk about their *cousin Lord this*, and their *uncle Lord that*. There are another class of men *called* gentlemen, who also frequent the hotels and the coffee-houses for their victims. This class prey upon the poor emigrants on their arrival. They are up to all sorts of tricks to defraud the new-comer out of his dollars ; and so sure as a settler has any transactions with them, so sure is he taken in—something is certain to be wrong. All emigrants ought to avoid them. Let them go to the government agents and responsible men for information, and

to make their purchases of land, and then they will be safe.

I have learned that one of the Ministers in Toronto preached his farewell sermon the Sunday I arrived. He has been dismissed without any fault by his congregation. He had been *hired for a year*, and his time having expired, the poor man was cast loose on the wide world.

Congregations in America are in the habit of engaging their Ministers for a term of one, two, or three years, and then turning them a-drift. Sometimes they are in danger of being dismissed for doing their duty too zealously. One Minister in the States, took up the Temperance Cause very warmly, and urged the principle so strongly, as to give offence to his congregation, a great number of whom were distillers and dealers in spiritous liquors. He was called to account, and gave in a letter explaining his conduct, and he only escaped from being dismissed by a small majority of the congregation holding his letter to be satisfactory to them.

Ministers are much to be pitied in America ; a great number of them lose their health, which is justly ascribed to their unceasing labours to keep up their reputation, and their anxiety to please their congregations. This system of *hiring Mi-*

nisters, as they would clerks or servants, tends greatly to degrade the ministerial character, and takes away that spirit of independence which alone enables a Minister to preach the gospel fearlessly and honestly to his people.

The appearance of many of the inhabitants of Toronto, would lead me to think, that it is rather a dissipated place. The town contains about 9000 inhabitants, composed of Scotch, English, and Irish, native-born Canadians, and Negroes. There is wanting here that spirit of enterprise which you see in the States. They reckon the importation of emigrants, which takes place every spring, as their harvest ; and they do with them as the American young ladies do with their live geese, they pluck the feathers off them alive every Spring.

They call for men of capital to come out and settle among them. Now the question comes to be, Is it advisable for men of capital, who can live comfortably at home, to go there ? If you read the statements of those interested—if you trust to the letters sent home by residents here—you are too apt to be deceived. They have a direct interest in getting out wealthy settlers to the colony. They describe the country as immensely fertile, the climate delightfully salubrious, bracing and invigorating the human frame, and stimulating to



and sweetening labour, with the prospect of prosperity to a wealthy settler, to which it would be difficult to assign bounds. Now my conscientious opinion is, that this statement is not consistent with fact ; and I would not advise any one who has capital, and can live comfortably at home, ever to come here. I shall give my reasons as briefly as possible :—In the first place, I consider *the climate decidedly injurious to the constitutions of people from the old country* ; a residence of two or three years here sometimes makes a person look ten years older than he did before. Instances of this kind have come under my own observation ; and it is an established fact, that the sudden changes of the climate from extreme heat to extreme cold, the liability to fever and ague, and the frequency of diseases of the lungs, are very trying to Europeans, and tend materially to shorten life. Indeed it has been alleged, and with some correctness, “ that for two months of the Spring, and two months of the Autumn, you are up to your middle in mud ; for four months of Summer you are broiled by the heat, choked by the dust, and devoured by the musquitoes ; and for the remaining four months, if you get your nose above the snow, it is to have it bit off by the frost, if you do not keep it well covered up.”

In the second place, a wealthy settler from Europe rarely ever feels himself at home here. He deprives himself of many of the comforts which added to his happiness there, which he can never find in America, and often the sweets of home are too little valued till they are sacrificed for ever. Another reason I give is, that a large capital, invested in farming in America, does not yield a remunerating profit. It is admitted by all the farmers, both in the States and Canada, to whom I spoke on the subject, that farms do not yield a fair return for the amount of capital embarked. This is owing partly to the low value of produce, partly to the high price of labour, and partly to the system of bartering they carry on, which makes it very difficult to realize the cash.

Another circumstance which cannot fail to be observed is, that almost every proprietor of land is inclined to sell it, and it naturally occurs to an inquiring mind, why are they all so anxious to part with the land? This, in my estimation, speaks volumes against rashly making a purchase; and I would advise all emigrants to refrain from purchasing land till they have lived at least a twelve-month in the country, and learned all the tricks of the natives. Indeed, from all I can learn, it is my opinion that a man, in easy circumstances, should

not think of emigrating ; he little knows the sacrifice he will be called on to make in the back woods of America. Let him picture to himself an abode in a log-house, immured for life 'mid the eternal gloom of the forest, the sun only visible for a few hours of the day ; cut off for ever from the civilized world ; subject to the fever and ague, and other diseases incidental to the country ; far removed from medical advice ; no servants to be had for money ; several feet of snow on the ground for five months in the year ; wild beasts prowling about, ready to snatch away the children or any other domestic animals ; the intense heat of Summer ; the tremendous hurricanes, and the awful thunder storms, so frequent here, and so dangerous from the falling trees ;—and yet these are but a few of the dangers and hardships to which the new settler is exposed.

During my stay at Toronto, I took an excursion thirty miles into the interior of the country.

After visiting several of the farmers in their log-houses, I went into the woods to shoot pigeons. I had not been gone long when I thought of returning, but I found, as the mouse in the trap did, that it was much easier getting in than getting out. I walked in a direction which I thought the right one, till I was sure I must have got to the clear-

ing ; but always the more I walked the less likelihood I saw of attaining my object. I hallooed till the birds rose from their resting places, but no welcome human voice answered me. My legs being fairly tired out, I sat down on the stump of a tree to rest myself ; but I had not been seated many minutes ere I saw a snake, of about three feet in length, creeping among the underwood towards the place where I was seated. I rose and walked off as fast as I could, and continued going on until I was ready to drop down with fatigue. It was now between seven and eight in the evening, the sun set or setting, and the woods throwing a gloom around, which made me feel something like Eve after she had partaken of the forbidden fruit. I had been told that the wolves were sometimes heard howling in the forest, and that a Canadian, when out shooting deer, was devoured by them, and I became much alarmed :—

“ As some lone bird *without a mate*,  
My weary heart was desolate ;  
I look'd around but could not trace  
One friendly smile or welcome face.”

I was now anxious to scramble up a tree to nestle there for the night ; but the trees were all straight and without any branches, except near the top, so it was impossible to ascend any of

them. I was startled when I heard any thing move. At one time a frog, as large as a Cheshire cat, with a voice strong enough to hold forth at a meeting composed of Whigs and Chartists, looked up in my face, seemingly much alarmed, but it had nothing to fear from me. At length, when nature was nearly exhausted, I came to a tree that had been felled either by the lightning or the wind, and in falling had come in contact with the tree next it, and thus hung half way to the ground, forming a kind of ascent to the adjacent tree, to the top of which, after some difficulty, I managed to convey myself and gun. About midnight a storm of wind and rain, thunder and lightning, came on; I was fairly drenched through, and I shook as if I was in a fit of the North Carolina ague. The storm lasted about three quarters of an hour. When it abated, I was so overpowered with sleep that I could hardly keep awake. But the longest night will have an end. Daylight came at last, when I descended from my airy habitation, and went again in search of the civilized world. At five A. M. I heard a bell ringing at a great distance. I followed in the direction whence the sound proceeded, hallooing with all my might. The sound came nearer and nearer, till at last I stumbled upon the settler whose house I had just left before I wan-

dered into the woods. He had come into the woods to seek me ; and he now afforded me the refreshing intelligence that all the while I had not been above a mile from his house. He had taken the precaution to bring a pocket compass with him ; so in a short time I was safely sitting in his house at breakfast, to which I did ample justice, as I had not tasted food for eighteen hours.

## CHAPTER IV.

"The fall of waters rapid as the light,  
The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss;  
The hell of waters! where they howl and hiss,  
And boil in endless torture."

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4th June. I took my departure from Toronto for Niagara at seven A. M. in the steam-boat Canada. We crossed Lake Ontario, and arrived by half-past eleven A. M. at Fort Niagara. The day was cool and clear. At Fort Niagara, I found stage-coaches waiting the arrival of the steamer, to carry the passengers to the Falls of Niagara, and I secured a seat in one of them. The road is close to the Niagara river, and is tolerably good. When I came within six miles of the Falls I heard the roaring of the cataract, which impressed me with feelings of awe, when I thought of the mighty

spectacle I was so soon to behold. I took up my lodgings at the National Hotel, kept by Mr Slater, and then sallied forth to contemplate the scene. I had a quarter of a mile to walk before I reached the Falls. They burst upon my sight as soon as I reached a certain point of the road ; and although they were certainly very grand, they did not nearly embody the descriptions I had read of them. I had heard them compared to a sea descending from the moon, which simile is certainly overstretched. The roaring of the falling waters is similar to the noise made by the wind in a storm, when passing through a forest of tall trees ; and the abyss below into which the foaming torrent is hurled, resembles an immense cauldron, where the foam, white as the driven snow, is lashed to and fro by the sheet of water pouring over the rocks into the gulf.

After I had gazed for a couple of hours from Table Rock, I thought of returning to my hotel ; but I found the longer I gazed the more I was fascinated with the sight. I was so intent, indeed, that I did not perceive the approach of a thunder-storm, till I was awakened from my reverie by a peal of thunder close by ; and although I was within a few yards of the Great Horse-shoe Fall when the thunder-storm came on, I heard distinct-



ly every peal, which proves that the roaring of the Falls is not so great as to drown the voice of thunder. I have been informed that the noise of the cataract has been heard at night, when the wind was favourable, at Toronto, on the north side of Lake Ontario, a distance of fifty miles; but I must say it appears to me extremely improbable.

The Falls of Niagara are situated on the river of the same name, which connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario and the St. Laurence. Niagara river is thirty-five miles in length, and varies from about half a mile to five or six miles in width. The Falls are situated about twenty miles distant from Lake Erie, and fourteen from Lake Ontario. At Chippewa Creek, which is two miles above the Falls, the width of the river is nearly two miles, and its current is extremely rapid, from thence to the Falls it gradually narrows to about a mile in width. The descent of the rapids has been estimated at 58 feet. The earth in the neighbourhood of the Falls feels tremulous, caused by the shock it receives from the falling waters. The cataract pours over a summit in the form of a crescent, extending some distance up the stream. The sheet of water is separated by Goat Island, leaving the grand fall on the Canada side about 600 yards wide, and the high fall on the American about 300.

The fall on the American side drops almost perpendicularly to the distance of 164 feet. The Grand, or Horse-shoe Fall, on the Canada side, descends to the river below in the form of a curve, 168 feet. The whole height, including the descent of the rapids above, is 216 feet.

When I returned to my hotel I found that this was the review-day of the Canada Militia, and that my landlord had all the officers in his house at dinner. They sat drinking till about eleven at night, and many, indeed I may say the most of them, retired in that blessed state in which a gentleman is enabled to see two copies of the same object, of which, in reality, only one exists. Had they ventured upon the hazardous experiment of remaining half an hour longer, the chances are considerable that the majority would not have been able to see at all.

5th June. I rose at five A.M., and joined a small party who were going out to shoot wild pigeons, and returned to breakfast, after four hours excellent sport. The wild pigeons in America have a singular propensity to roost together; they often fly seventy miles for their food, and return to their roost the same evening. If a person happens to be near a roosting-place, from about an hour before sunset until nine or ten o'clock at

night, his ears are assailed by one continual roar resembling a distant waterfall. "When they have frequented one of these places for some time," says Wilson, "the appearance it exhibits is surprising. The ground is covered to the depth of several inches with their dung; all the tender grass and underwood destroyed; the surface strewed with large limbs of trees, broken down by the weight of the birds clustering one above another; and the trees themselves, for thousands of acres, killed as if girdled with an axe. The marks of this desolation remain many years on the spot; and numerous places could be pointed out where, for several years after, scarce a single vegetable made its appearance. By the Indians, a pigeon roost, or breeding place, is considered an important source of national profit and dependence. Near Shelbyville, in the state of Kentucky, there was one of these breeding-places, which stretched through the woods nearly in a north and south direction; was several miles in breadth, and was said to be upwards of *forty miles in extent*. In this tract almost every tree was furnished with nests, wherever the branches could accommodate them. The pigeons made their first appearance there about the 10th of April, and left it altogether, with their young, about the 25th of June. As soon as the young

were fully grown, and before they left their nests, numerous parties of the inhabitants, from all parts of the adjacent country, came with waggons, axes, beds, cooking utensils, many of them accompanied by the greater part of their families, and encamped for several days at this immense nursery. The noise in the woods was so great as to terrify their horses, and it was difficult for one person to make another hear without bawling in his ear. The ground was strewed with broken limbs of trees, eggs, and young pigeons, which had been precipitated from above, and on which herds of hogs were fattening. Hawks, buzzards, and eagles, were sailing about in great numbers, and seizing the young from their nests at pleasure, while, from twenty feet upwards to the top of the trees, the view through the woods presented a perpetual tumult of crowding and fluttering multitudes of pigeons, their wings roaring like thunder, mingled with the frequent crash of falling timber, when the axemen were at work cutting down the trees that were most crowded with nests. On a single tree upwards of a hundred nests are sometimes found, each containing a *single young one only*, a circumstance not generally known." The young pigeons are so extremely fat that the Indians, and many of the whites, melt down the fat for domestic pur-

poses, as a substitute for butter and lard. At the time they leave the nest they are nearly as heavy as the old ones ; but become much leaner after they are turned out to shift for themselves. The breaking of the trees, by the immense number of pigeons which roost on them, makes it dangerous to venture into a roost at night ; indeed, a pigeon roost in the west is said to resemble a section of a country over which a violent hurricane has passed. Flocks of wild pigeons move annually northward from the Southern States in such numbers as almost to exceed belief. It has been observed that a flock, about a mile in breadth, took up four hours in passing, which, allowing them to fly at the rate of one mile per minute, gives a length of 240 miles ; and supposing three pigeons to each square yard, gives 2,230,272,000 pigeons.

9th June. During my stay here I paid morning and evening visits to the Falls to contemplate the sublime cataract ; and every day I felt more and more reluctance to leave. This morning I visited them for the last time ; and on that occasion I summoned up resolution to venture behind the great sheet of water. Before descending the spiral stair which leads to the waters below the Falls, I was shewn into a room to undress, and I was supplied with a complete suit from the keeper's

wardrobe, which I put on ; and then the guide conducted me to the bottom of the stair by a rough path which winds along the bottom of the precipice, and leads under the excavated bank which overhangs about thirty or forty feet. The path was very slippery from the wet, and just as I passed the entrance into the cavern I stumbled and nearly fell. Before I had gone three yards more, I was completely drenched with the spray, and I felt a sensation of dread caused by a strong current of wind tossing me from side to side, and the gloom and thick mist which enveloped me. I felt as if I was in a shower bath. I saw several snakes crawling among the crumbling rocks of the cavern, unmoved amid the fearful convulsions of nature. The shock from the falling spray took away my breath for a few minutes, and to avoid falling, I leaned against the rock. My guide not thinking otherwise than that I followed close at his heels, went forward, and left me standing alone. He soon returned to me, and I saw his lips moving, but if the tongues of a thousand arch-angels had been given to him, the mighty roaring of the falling waters would have silenced them all. However I “ guessed ” he was urging me forward, and I followed him close up till I reached as far as I could go. This point is called Termination Rock.

and is 153 feet from the commencement of the volume of water at Table Rock. After standing about two minutes, I found my situation so disagreeable that I retraced my steps as fast as possible, and came out as completely drenched as if I had been immersed in the foaming cauldron at my feet.

A cloud-like smoke overhangs the Falls, and gives to the white foam below the appearance of an immense boiling cauldron, and when the sun shines on the falling spray the ever-changing prismatic colours, so well described by the Poet, may be observed :—

“ An Iris sits amidst the infernal surge,  
Like hope upon a death-bed, and unworn  
Its steady dyes while all around is torn  
By the distracted waters, bears serene  
Its brilliant hues, with all its beams unshorn,  
Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene,  
Love-watching madness, with unalterable mien.”

The amount of water which passes over the Falls is estimated at 100 millions of tons in an hour. The depth of water at the principal Fall cannot be ascertained ; it is supposed by some to be 600 feet. It is said that when a boat approaches within a certain distance of the Falls it is difficult to arrest

it, by reason of a magnetic attraction towards the precipice. Hence the tradition of the Indian, who finding his canoe within the influence of this attraction gave up all hope, laid down his paddle, swallowed the last drop in his flask, shrouded himself in his blanket and was precipitated over the Fall.

A few years ago an old vessel was purchased by the Hotel-keepers at Niagara for the purpose of being precipitated over the Falls. The circumstance was widely advertised, and a great assemblage was gathered together to witness the novel spectacle. The vessel was filled with animals consisting of bears, wolves, dogs, cats, geese, ducks, &c. The vessel struck on the rapids above the Falls, when the bear got overboard and swam to the shore; shortly afterward the masts fell overboard, and she filled with water; the poor animals were dreadfully frightened, they gathered together on that part of the deck which was the highest out of the water, but in a few seconds the vessel and all on board were hurled over the falls, and of all the crew and passengers aboard, a solitary cat and a lame goose were alone picked up alive. The vessel was shattered into a thousand fragments.

I was charged for the use of the suit of clothes and the guide, half a dollar. My name was in-



serted in the book for registering the names of those who have passed behind the Falls, and I received the following certificate:—"This may certify that J——— R——— has passed behind the great falling sheet of water to Termination Rock. Given under my hand at the office of the general register of the names of visitors at the Table Rock, this 9th day of June 18—

(Signed) Jea. Graskey."

Snakes are very numerous in America. The rattle-snake never makes an attack on any person till they have given warning with their rattle, and in consequence of this, which is considered a noble trait in their character, the Indians seldom destroy them. When about to attack its prey, it suddenly coils itself up with the tail raised and rattling in the middle of the coil, and can strike from nearly its whole length. It is most dangerous when the bite takes place on a part of the body uncovered, but if a person is bitten through the clothes, a great proportion of the poison is absorbed by them, and so prevented from mixing with the blood. The Indians have an antidote for the bite, called the rattle-snake weed, which is said to be used with great effect, but the best specific is the speedy application of a cupping-glass to the wound, and a large tea-spoonful of ammonia, in a wine glass

filled with water, administered every hour till the symptoms take a favourable turn. Hogs are great enemies to the snakes, and feed upon them without suffering any inconvenience from their bite ; but the most remarkable of all the snakes in this continent is said to be the hissing snake, which is only seen in the far west. It is a small species, about eight inches long. When it is irritated, it blows from its mouth, with great force, a subtle wind which is said to have a very nauseous smell, and if inhaled by any person, it infallibly brings on a consumption, which generally proves fatal in a few months.

While on the subject of snakes, I may mention an incident which happened at Manchester, Mississippi, which at the time caused a dreadful sensation among the female sex :—Some time during the Summer the inhabitants of that town gave a ball, which was attended by most of the fashion and beauty of the town and surrounding country. It happened that among the guests there was a young lady, Miss Catherine Paton, recently from one of the Eastern cities, who was on a visit to her relations in the neighbourhood of the town. Miss P. was a gay and extremely fashionable young lady, and withal possessed an uncommon share of spirit and courage, except in the matter of snakes—and of these she

had so great a dread that she scarcely dared to walk any where except in the most frequented places for fear of encountering them. Every effort was used, but without avail, to rid her of her childish fears—they haunted her continually, until at last it became the settled conviction of her mind, that she was destined to fall a victim to the fangs of a rattle-snake. The sequel will shew how soon her terrible presentiment was fulfilled.

Towards the close of the day, while scores of fairy feet were keeping time in the dance to the music, and the whole company were in the full tide of enjoyment, a scream was heard from Miss Paton, followed by the most agonizing cries for help. The crowd gathered around her instantly, and beheld her standing, the very image of despair, with her hands grasping a portion of her dress with the tenacity of a vice. It was some time before she could be rendered sufficiently calm to tell the cause of her alarm, and then they gathered from her broken exclamations that she was grasping the head of a snake among the folds of her dress, and dreaded to let go her hold for fear of receiving the fatal blow! This intelligence caused many to shrink from her, but most of the ladies, to their honour be it told, remained with her, determined not to leave her in her dreadful extremity.

They besought her not to relax her hold, as her safety depended upon it, until some one could be found who had the courage to seize and remove the terrible animal. There were none of the ladies, however, who had the courage to perform the act, and the condition of Miss P. was becoming more and more critical every moment. It was evident that her strength was failing very fast, and that she could not maintain her hold many minutes longer.

A hasty consultation among the calmest of the ladies was held, when it was determined that Dr. Logan, who was present, should be called to their assistance. He was quickly on the spot, and being a man of uncommon courage, he was not many minutes within the circle of the weeping and half fainting females, until he had caught the tail of the snake, and wound it firmly round his hand to make sure of his hold. He then told Miss P. that she must let go at the moment he jerked it away, and, to make the act as instantaneous as possible, he told her he would pronounce the words "one! two! three!" and that, at the moment he pronounced the last word, she must let go her hold, and he doubted not that he could withdraw the snake before it could have time to strike. All stood in breathless horror, awaiting

the act of life or death, and at the moment the word "three" was pronounced, the doctor jerked out the largest and most diabolical-looking bustle that was ever seen in Mississippi. The whole affair was at once explained. The fastenings of the machine had become loose during the dancing, and it had shifted its position in such a way that it dangled about the lady's limbs, and induced the belief that it was a snake with an enormous head.

While I staid at Lundy's Lane, in Mr Slater's National Hotel, I found the weather excessively hot, which confined me to the house for the greater part of the day. Mr Slater, his wife, and family, had come out from England about two years before. He spoke by no means favourably of his prospects in the new world. He complained of the scarcity of money, which is a universal epidemic I believe. There was little or no money to be seen; he said business was chiefly carried on by barter. Mrs Slater said she never felt this place as her home, till her eldest daughter, who died last summer, was buried here; and since that her ties to the land which encloses one so dear to her, have become stronger. I saw they were both very low spirited and far from being happy. They told me that masters in this country are slaves to their servants. They dare not admonish them if they do

wrong ; and although they are impertinent they must submit to it. This is what is called freedom with a vengeance. How would the whig-radicals of Britain like to be so situated ? I think it would soon convince them that theory and practice are two very different things, and that liberty and equality are very fine things—to talk about.

I left Mr Slater's on Monday the 9th day of June, at three P. M., for Buffalo, by the stage which runs between the two places. The road was pretty good considering the country through which it passed ; and as it stretched along the windings of the Niagara river, the cool breeze from the water was quite refreshing. In the coach there was an old country-man, who had been three years in the country, and resided at Detroit, a city in the Michigan territory. I asked him how he liked the country. “ Why,” says he, “ I don't like it at all. I am roasted alive one part of the year with the heat, and frozen to death at another time with the cold. It was not for a person of my age (52) to come here ; but I made the sacrifice for the sake of my children. They will become naturalized to this climate, which I never can.”

When the stage reached a small village called Waterloo, we alighted, as here we were to cross

over to the American side. We were taken across by a ferry-boat, propelled by two horses. The horses were made fast on deck so that they could not advance ; but the power of their limbs in the attempt moved round the frame on which they stood, which, being connected to the paddles of the boat, propelled her through the water. The place where we landed is called Black Rock, a village containing about 800 inhabitants. The Erie canal passes close to it. The stage was in waiting to carry us forward to Buffalo, three miles farther, where I arrived at seven P. M., and put up at the Eagle Hotel, one of the largest establishments in Buffalo.

## CHAPTER V.

" Lo the poor Indian, whose untutor'd mind  
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind;  
His soul proud science never taught to stray  
Far as the solar walk or milky way;  
Yet simple nature to his hope has given,  
Behind the cloud-topt hill, an humbler heaven;  
Some safer world in depth of woods embrac'd,  
Some happier island in the wat'ry waste."

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BUFFALO is perhaps the most flourishing city in the States. It has natural and artificial advantages, which point it out as likely some day to become a great city ; at present it is quite in its infancy ; but situated as it is, in the midst of the enterprise and business of this new world, where the produce of the west, coming from the shores all along Lake Erie, and the other lakes to the westward, here find an outlet by the canal to the eastward, and by Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence to the Atlantic ; it is destined to increase rapidly in size and popu-



lation. The streets are broad and many of the shops are very splendid.

Buffalo was burned by our troops during the last war, in retaliation for similar outrages committed by the Americans in Canada; and there was but one house left standing, which owed its preservation to the owner who was a widow. She, seeing the whole city in flames, and expecting every moment that her house would share the same fate, resolved to enter the British camp and beg the enemy to spare her home. Armed with a broom-stick, to which a white handkerchief was appended, she passed the sentinels and requested to speak with the commanding officer. When she received an audience, she claimed his sympathy on the ground that she was a poor widow; that she had many fatherless children; and that the house was all that the father had left to them; that it had hitherto sustained them, but that if it was destroyed, they were all utterly ruined. To the honour of the British character, her petition was granted.

Buffalo was not rebuilt until the Erie canal was opened, when it arose like the Phoenix from its ashes with renewed splendour.

I have met a great many of the Indians on the streets: the first I have seen. I could not but

feel a deep sympathy for these poor unfortunate beings, who are the original proprietors of the soil, and yet seem destined in a century or two more to be quite extinct. Poor unfortunates! they have, like many more of their fellow-beings, fallen victims to the diabolical influence of what many are pleased to term, "*fire-water*." I observed two Indian women very drunk; they were staggering about the streets, and every now and then uttering a strange savage yell, something very similar to the cry of the milk-men in New York, when they arrive in their spring cart at the door of their customers. A wag has suggested the probability of their yell being in direct imitation of this gentleman, as he says he has no doubt that from the generous nature of their potations they were both laden, at that very identical moment, with a more than ordinary supply of *the milk of human kindness*. And he is perhaps right, as I am credibly informed that soon after I had seen them they were observed embracing a lamp-post, and calling names to the passers-by.

About nine P. M. I went to the Theatre, where I saw the worst acting I ever witnessed, not even excepting the perpetrations nightly committed in private theatres. The house was full and yet there were not above four females present. I only

remained half an hour ; and on my return to my hotel, I again met the two Indian women ; they were lying on the pavement and rolling about in the last stage of intoxication. Well might the celebrated Black Hawk ask, “ Why did the Great Spirit ever send the whites to this island, to drive us from our homes, and introduce among us poisonous liquors, disease, and death ? ” A North American Indian considers it beneath his dignity to intermeddle with the duties of his squaw, and strife and contention are seldom known to exist between husband and wife, but, when spiritous liquors get introduced among the Indians by the white traders, their character undergoes a great change, particularly when under its baneful influence ; they act then more like demons than human beings, and there is little hope of their condition being improved till this *fire-water*, or *evil spirit*, (as it is called by the Indians) be entirely excluded from among them.

The poor Indians are often sadly duped by the white persons who are in the habit of trading with them. A Yankee wished to sell them a quantity of gun-powder, but as they had been previously supplied with the article by other traders, he found it difficult to get rid of it ; but he succeeded by artifice. He was asked how the gun-powder was

made, and he told them the powder was sowed in the fields, the same as wheat, and that they by sowing a few pounds of powder would be enabled to raise large crops in a very short space of time; indeed, almost as soon as Mr Mainzer could teach an Ourang-Outang to chaunt. The bait took, and the Yankee's gun-powder was all bought at a high price, and following the example of the common gun-powder, he *went off* as fast as possible.

The simple Indians followed the trader's directions, and sowed the powder; they visited it from time to time to watch its progress, and it was only after awhile, when their patience was entirely exhausted, that they began to find out that they had been duped and deceived. They therefore determined to be revenged on the first opportunity, which very soon afterwards occurred.

Another Yankee paid them a visit to barter goods for skins, but no sooner had he opened his wares before them, than they rushed upon him and took them all away by force. The Yankee complained to the chief, who archly replied, "that he would order the Indians to pay him as soon as they had collected the next *gun-powder harvest*."

The Indians say that the whites *may do bad* all their lives, and then, if they are *sorry for it when about to die, all is well*. But they say it is different

with them ; they are taught to do what they conceive to be good throughout their whole lives.

10th June. I mentioned that I stopped at the Eagle Hotel, one of the largest houses of the kind in the United States. When I desired to be shown into my bed room, I was ushered by a black valet-de-chambre, into a large spacious apartment, containing no less than four beds, which were afterwards occupied by as many different gentlemen. This practice may do in the cabin of a steamer, but in a great hotel it is by no means delicate. The bell rung for breakfast at eight o'clock, and I followed in the wake of the crowd of boarders, who made for the breakfast room as speedily as their legs would allow them. They were in such a hurry to secure the best places at the table, that when they perceived it laid out as it was in apple-pie order as they trotted down the long passage, they made a sudden rush in at the door. The aperture, however, having never been intended to admit of the ingress of more than two or three human bodies at once, very naturally refused admittance to ten or twelve, with nearly as many followers treading on their heels, and the consequence was, that the foremost men of the company stuck fast in the doorway. Then there ensued such a pushing, and driving, and squabbling, that

much impeded their movement, and it was some minutes before they could extricate themselves from their unpleasant ridiculous situation. They did effect it, however, at last, and you may be sure they did not lose much time in planting themselves around the breakfast table. Covers were set for about one hundred and twenty people, but there were only about eighty sat down to breakfast. The ladies presided at the upper end of the table, and what was somewhat remarkable, *in a free country*, they took no notice whatever of the gentlemen. The tea and coffee cups were filled by the waiters at side tables, and handed to the company, who put in sugar and milk to suit their taste. The table was covered with a profusion of fried fish, beef-steaks, mutton chops, eggs, radishes, raw onions, and cresses; the ladies, with less artificial appetites than most of our English Misses, eat as heartily as the gentlemen, and every one seemed as if he were eating for a wager. The moment they had bolted the last morsel, the various individuals rose and left the room. I waited until they had all vanished, when the white attendants, becoming impatient at my delay, took their seats alongside of me, and began fortifying their inner-man with the remains of the repast.

At ten A. M. I set off on an excursion to visit a

tribe of Indians, who are settled at the village of Seneca, about three miles from Buffalo. The Indians, with their squaws and papooses, were all quite new to me, and I took a deep interest in them.

Not many years ago, the Indians were the sole possessors of the land ; the valleys and the hills re-echoed with their war-cry ; the lakes and the rivers were covered with canoes, and the smoke from the birch bark wigwams ascended from the lakes to the ocean.

“ The Indians,” says William Penn, “ are generally tall and straight, well built, and of singular proportion ; they tread strong and clever, and mostly walk with a lofty chin. They grease themselves with bear’s fat clarified. Their eye is little and black, not unlike a straight-eyed Jew. The thick lip and flat nose, so frequent with the negroes, are not common to them ; many of them have fine Roman noses. Their language is lofty, yet narrow, but, like the Hebrew, is in signification full. Like short-hand in writing, one word serveth in the place of three, and the rest are supplied by the understanding of the hearer.

“ As soon as the children are born, they wash them in water ; and while very young, and in cold weather, they plunge them in the rivers to harden

and embolden them. The children walk very young, at nine months commonly; if boys, they go a-fishing till ripe for the woods, which is about fifteen; then they hunt; and after having given some proofs of their manhood, by a good return of skins, they may marry; else it is considered a shame to think of a wife.

“ The girls stay with their mothers, and help to hoe the ground, plant corn, and carry burdens; and they do well to use them to that when young, which they must do when they are old, for the wives are the true servants of the husbands; otherwise the men are very affectionate to them. When the young women are fit for marriage, *they wear something* about their heads for an advertisement, but so as their faces are hardly to be seen but when they please. The age they marry at, if women, is about thirteen or fourteen; if men, seventeen and eighteen; they are rarely older.

“ They are light of heart, strong affections but soon spent. The most merry creatures that live; feast and dance perpetually. They never have much, nor want much. Wealth circulateth like the blood; all parts partake; and though none shall want what another hath, yet exact observers of property. They care for little, because they want but little; and the reason is a little contents



them. In this they are sufficiently revenged on us : if they are ignorant of our pleasures, they are also free from our pains. We sweat and toil to live : their pleasures feed them. I mean their fishing, hunting, and fowling ; and this table is spread everywhere. They eat twice a day, morning and evening : their seats and table are the ground. In sickness, impatient to be cured, and for it give any thing, especially for their children, to whom they are extremely natural."

Indian children are never put into cradles ; they are suspended from the bough of a tree in willow baskets beyond the reach of wild beasts, and the motion, which is a kind of circular swing, is said to be more pleasant than the rocking of a cradle.

It has been observed by a late writer, that " The education of the Indian child is an object of the most profound interest to the whole tribe. He is taught to love his country and tribe, to condemn falsehood, to reverence age, to be modest and silent, to reward a kindness, and to avenge an injury ; to aid a friend, to persecute an enemy, and to abhor theft. The Indian usually retains his mother's name until he has entitled himself, by some remarkable act of prowess, or endurance, to choose one for himself, or has been distinguished

by some appellation bestowed by his tribe. Some of these names are sufficiently amusing, as, for example, ‘the very sweet man,’ ‘the man of good sense,’ ‘no fool,’ ‘he who strikes two at once,’ &c. The names of women are not always inelegant; take, as a specimen, ‘the bending willow,’ the ‘pure fountain,’ ‘the sweet-scented grass,’ &c.

“ Bravery, generosity, and contempt of pain, are the three principal virtues which are, even in their earliest years, inculcated in their breasts: hence the Indian, when surrounded by his deadliest enemies, can view the implements of his torture with indifference; can bear the most excruciating tortures without complaint, and even despise death in its most terrific form.

“ The principal crimes among the Indians are murder, ingratitude, cowardice, adultery, stealing, and lying. They look upon cowardice as one of the greatest crimes, and even punish it with death, with a view to stimulate the young to acts of bravery; and the greatest insult you can offer to an Indian is to call him a *coward*, and the next greatest is to doubt his word; and the reason of this is, that the Indians esteem telling a lie as a mark of cowardice, and on that account are extremely guarded in always speaking the truth.

“ One of their most favourite amusements is

dancing. With us dancing is looked upon as a mere pastime, but with them it is very different.

When they receive favours, they make a dance ; when the Great Spirit blesses their undertakings, they thank him in the dance ; but the war dance is the most solemn of all their dances. The warriors alone take a part in it, and they are all armed with guns, hatchets, tom-a-hawks, or clubs, which they flourish in the air, and they assume such an aspect of fury and passion as to make the lookers-on to shudder ; and what adds to the frightful nature of the dance is, the dreadful howling which they make, accompanied with the most horrible gestures, as they threaten to kill each other."

When a young unmarried Indian distinguishes himself as a warrior in battle, he is, on his return home, welcomed in the most joyful manner by the young women, and receives from some of them *ears of corn* as an invitation for him to marry them, if he feels inclined. The women have rarely more than three children ; they suckle them two or three years ; sterility is hardly known among them, which may be accounted for from their healthy employment, and the simplicity of their food ; and I have no doubt sterility would be as rare in England and Scotland, among our females,

if they would live *as true to nature* as the Indians do.

The diseases to which they are most subject are rheumatism, asthma, fevers, pleurisy, and bowel complaints.

The prevailing opinion of all the Indian tribes is, that there is one great or Good Spirit who created all things, and no people on the face of the earth are more sincere in their gratitude to the Great Spirit for his mercies ; he is *always before their eyes*, and they pray to him, and offer up sacrifices to him on all important occasions.

I am told that an Indian and his wife never get drunk together ; when the one indulges more than ordinarily, the other keeps sober, and so they arrange that this line of business be carried on by each separately and in turn. Drunkenness, unfortunately, is not looked upon by them as sinful. It would be well if it were so, inasmuch as public opinion is a law to them. For example, if any one among them commits a crime deserving of death, he seldom makes an attempt to escape, but gives himself up to suffer death, preferring to die rather than to live under the ban of public opinion.

In 1831 three brothers lived at the Seneca Reserve, the eldest of whom was the chief over

the tribe. He was much esteemed by all who knew him ; yet notwithstanding he met his death by poison. Suspicion fell upon his second brother, named " Red hand," which was no sooner hinted about, than the Chiefs held a meeting for the purpose of investigating into the particulars of the murder. The evidence adduced was, in their opinion, so confirmatory of " Red hand's" guilt, and it having also been proved to their satisfaction that he had had an accomplice in the person of a squaw, the principal Indian Chief present decreed that both should suffer death. The surviving brother of " Red hand," who was named " Black snake," said, that if " Red hand" must die, he would be the executioner himself, to prevent feuds arising in the tribe." Accordingly, " Black snake" went into " Red hand's" hut in the evening, and, after having sat in silence for some time, said, " My best chiefs say you have killed my father's son—they say my brother must die." " Red hand" merely replied, " they say so ;" and continued to smoke. After about fifteen minutes further silence, " Black snake" said, pointing to the setting sun, " when he appears above those trees"—moving his arm round to the opposite direction—" I come to kill you." " Red hand" nodded his head in the short significant style of

the Indian, and said "good." The next morning, "Black snake" came, followed by two chiefs, and having entered the hut, first put out the squaw; he then returned and stood before his brother, his eyes bent on the ground. "Red hand" said calmly, "has my brother come that I may die?" "it is so," was the reply. "Then," exclaimed Red hand, grasping his brother's left hand with his own right hand, and dashing the shawl from his face, "strike sure!" In an instant the tomahawk was from the girdle of "Black snake" and buried in the skull of the wretched man. He received several blows before he fell, uttering the exclamation "hugh!" each time. The scalping knife was at length passed across his throat, which terminated the tragic scene.

The Indians are amazingly acute of sight. If they see a person once, they will know him always after. If you confer a favour on one of them, he will remember it with gratitude as long as he lives; but if you do him an injury, he never forgets or forgives it.

Those Indians I saw at Seneca were rather less in stature than the Americans. Their skin was of a dark smoky copper colour; their hair long, black, and coarse. Some of them wore large earrings. The young papooses were amusing them-

selves shooting with bows and arrows. I asked one of them to take aim at an orange, which I placed on a stone at a considerable distance; he hit it at once, and seemingly almost without an effort: so expert are they.

The Indian race is fast dwindling away. No doubt there is a *show* of justice observed towards them by the Americans, who make treaties, and who purchase their lands from them; but as the lands reserved for the Indians become unfit for them to live upon, so soon as they are surrounded by settlers, who clear the country round about, and thereby drive away the game on which the Indians subsist, they are thus forced to relinquish their lands for what the Americans choose to give them, and to remove far away, where the *white skin* has not intruded.

It was once their highest gratification to be accounted the white man's friend. And it has been truly said, none ever entered the hut of an Indian, and he gave him no meat, or cold and naked and he gave him no clothes; but now, alas! these generous Indians are forced to leave the home of their fathers:

“ Few and faint yet fearless still.”

They shed no tears; they utter no cries; they

heave no groans. There is something in their hearts which surpasses speech : it is courage absorbed by despair.

I took my leave of this interesting people about four P. M., and returned to Buffalo, where I stopped all night.



## CHAPTER VI.

“ A lone one in a foreign land,  
A stranger—I but strangers see;  
And if life's feeble chain should break,  
A stranger's grave my bed shall be.”

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11th June. After breakfast I walked out to take a ramble through the town, nor did I stop until I came to Lake Erie, when I was aroused from my reverie by the waves breaking on the shore. The wind was blowing fresh from the west, and I could hardly be convinced that the Lake before me was not the sea.

A steam-boat for Detroit (the capital of the Michigan territory) was on the point of sailing. I observed on deck about fifty emigrants, who were proceeding westward. The distance from Buffalo to Detroit is 300 miles, and the passage

between the two places occupies from thirty-five to forty hours.

Lake Erie is 290 miles long, and in the widest part is 63 broad. This lake receives into its bosom the surplus waters of the upper lakes, besides some tributary streams. Its waters appear green, and it is frozen over every winter. It lies 300 feet above the level of Lake Ontario.

A canal called the Welland Canal, was made some years ago, to connect those two lakes together, large enough to allow the vessels navigating the lake to pass through. The canal is 42 miles in length, 58 feet wide at the top, and 26 at the bottom.

At eleven A. M. I set off in the canal packet-boat on my return to New York. The packet-boats are exclusively fitted up for passengers and their luggage. They carry no goods, and their progress is estimated at about five miles an hour. During my wanderings, I have experienced painful sensations in leaving the towns I had visited, arising from the reflection that I was never to see them again. It is by no means agreeable to look one's last upon a place wherein you have passed some pleasant hours of an otherwise monotonous existence, and in parting with those companions whom accident had thrown in my way in canal

boats and steamers, and knowing that in all probability I should never see one of them more,—a temporary sadness came over me, which those who have wandered over distant lands can no doubt easily understand. In the boat I found twelve passengers, four of whom were ladies. The title “lady” is applied in America to all females; even a white servant would be affronted, if she were not styled a young lady. The master terms the servant a “Help,” and she calls her master the Boss; servant and master being titles the Americans consider totally inconsistent with their notions of equality. I looked around among my fellow-travellers for a sociable companion to converse with, and I soon fixed upon one in whom I thought I might expect congeniality of spirit :

“ A right jolly old man, with a large round belly,  
Which shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.”

I made up to him, and broke the ice by some casual remark or other. We were soon on a footing of intimacy. He was an old sea-captain, and had sailed many hundred thousand miles. He had been twice round the world. Like most sailors he liked a glass of grog, and expressed his utter detestation of Temperance Societies. He had been away in the Michigan country, with a view of

purchasing an estate, intending to cast anchor there for life ; but he had not made a purchase, as he thought the country too new to admit of the comforts and the society he wished for. At one o'clock we were summoned to dinner. The ladies sat at the upper part of the table, as stiff and cold as ice. The dinner was over in ten minutes. Nothing but cold water was drank during dinner ; however, the jolly old captain and I had a glass of brandy and water on the deck, where we smoked our segars \*. I gathered much information from him about America, and he told me some queer stories.

The wit of the Americans has something peculiarly odd about it. I was much struck with the following anecdote of Colonel Crocket :—" I never but once," said the Colonel, " was in what I call a real genuine quandary. It was during my electioneering campaign for Congress ; at which I strolled about in the woods so particularly pestered with politics, that I forgot my rifle. Any person

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\* Since the above was written, the Wanderer has become a convert to the principle of *Total Abstinence from strong drink*. He has now had eighteen month's experience of its beneficial effects, and he most cordially recommends the principle to the adoption of his readers.

may forget his rifle, you know, but it is'n't every man can make amends for his forgetfulness by his inventive faculties, I guess. It chanced as I was strolling along, considerably deep in Congressionals, the first thing that took my fancy was the snarling of some young bears, which proceeded from a hollow tree,—the entrance being more than forty feet from the ground. I mounted the tree ; but I soon found that I could not reach the cubs with my hands ; so I went feet foremost to see if I could draw them out with my toes. I hung on at the top of the hole, straining with all my might to reach them, until at last my hands slipped, and down I went more than twenty feet to the bottom of that black hole, and there I found myself almost hip-deep in a family of fine young bears. I soon found that I might as well undertake to climb up the greasiest part of a rainbow as to get back, the hole in the tree being so large, and its sides so smooth and slippery from the rain. Well, now, while I was calculating what was best to be done, I heard a kind of fumbling and grumbling overhead ; and looking up I saw the old bear coming down stern foremost upon me ;—my motto is always “go a-head !” and as soon as she had lowered herself within my reach, I got a tight grip of her tail in my left hand, and with my little buckhorn-hafted penknife

in the other, I commenced spurring her forward. I'll be shot if ever a member of Congress rose quicker in the world than I did ! She took me out in the shake of a lamb's tail."

One of the greatest peculiarities of the Americans is boasting. Two passengers coming down the Mississippi in a steam-boat, were amusing themselves with shooting birds on shore from the deck. Some sporting conversation ensued. One remarked that he would turn his back to no man in killing racoons—that he had repeatedly shot fifty a-day. "What of that," said a Kentuckian, "I make nothing of killing a hundred a-day :—" "Do you know Captain Scott of our State," asked a Tennesian bystander, "he is something like a shot. A hundred 'coon ? why, he never presents at one without hitting him. He never misses, and the racoons know it. T'other day he levelled at an old one in a high tree ; the varmint looked at him a minute, and then bawled out, "Hallo ! Captain Scott, is that you ?" "Yes," was the reply, "Well, pray do'n't shoot, I'll come down to you."

The Americans are fond of assuming titles to which they have no right. They accordingly dignify each other with the title of General, Colonel, and Major. This is so common, that the Captain of a steam-boat who was presiding at the diuner-

table, happening to ask rather loudly, "Colonel, a little fish," was immediately answered in the affirmative by twenty out of the thirty gentlemen present.

About ten miles from Buffalo, we came to a creek called Tonnewanta, which serves for twelve miles as a natural canal, and has saved the expense of cutting. At six o'clock we arrived at Lockport, where I left the boat, and took leave of my jolly companion.

Lockport, so called from its vicinity to a number of locks, is another of those mushroom villages which the Erie Canal has raised into existence. In 1821 there were only two houses at this place, now there are several hundreds. It does appear strange that a village of this size should not contain an inhabitant above twenty years of age born in the country. The inhabitants are strangers from many parts of the world, who have been led by various causes to make this place their adopted home.

When I landed I was accosted by a youth, wishing me to go to an inn only a few yards off. The landlord of this inn happened to be from Edinburgh. He had come out, along with his wife and family, four years before. They had been wrecked on the voyage from Liverpool to Quebec,

and escaped with only their lives, having lost their all. After working as a wright, for two years, in Upper Canada, he removed into the States, and finally settled down as an inn-keeper here. He seemed a kind-hearted man, for when I told him from whence I came, the feelings of the Scot overcame all the coldness of his adopted country, and he held out his hand, exclaiming, "O man, but I am glad to see you!" He invited me to take tea with his wife and family, and I spent a most agreeable evening. He had a daughter about twenty years of age, a most amiable good-looking girl. She had a sweet musical voice, and sang Scotch airs with much feeling. After she had sung several songs, I asked her if she would favour me with "Home, sweet home;" she complied; but I was sorry afterwards that I had asked her, for when she came to the line "there's no place like home," the tears started into her eyes, and trickled down her cheeks. I saw that the poor lassie felt that she was far from home. I was really grieved for her, and being a Bachelor at the time, was almost tempted to take her back again to Auld Reekie.

12th June. At Lockport there is a double set of locks, which allow the boats passing West to go by the one, while those going East pass by the



other, thereby saving a great deal of time. I saw nothing else worthy of remark in the village, so I took leave of mine host of the inn, and his lovely daughter, at ten A. M., and leaped on board the first line boat which passed on the canal, where, as usual, I met none of "the old familiar faces." I was not long on board ere I observed, sitting in the forepart of the boat, a half-starved, half-clad human being. He had terror and misery strongly marked on his countenance; all the social feelings seemed dead in him for ever. I found, on inquiry, he had lately received his dismissal from Sing-sing prison, where he had been for the last fourteen years, fulfilling the sentence of the law. I could not learn his crime.

I was anxious to know some particulars of this famous prison, where 1000 convicts are kept at hard labour, and doomed to perpetual silence, during the term of their confinement. I got into conversation with the poor wretch, and he certainly described the horrors and the cruelties of that prison to be such as must shock the feelings of humanity. The prisoners are wrought hard, and allowed but a scanty share of provisions. This induces a perpetual craving for food; and yet, if any of the prisoners, by reason of indisposition, have no stomach even for the scanty meal placed

before them, they dare not give it away to any of their fellow-prisoners, for if they were detected in the act, they would be severely flogged, as would also the receiver. This prohibition is so strongly enforced, that my informant declares he was once flogged for picking up an old chew of tobacco which one of the keepers spat out of his mouth. No wonder that such cruel treatment breaks down the health and the spirits of those unfortunate creatures. Some of them commit suicide ; others are taken sick, and when death comes to their relief, one would think some sympathy might be shewn to the dying man ; but no—with a refinement in cruelty peculiar to the Americans, no friend, not even a father, a brother, or a wife, is allowed to sooth his dying couch ; he sees before him the dark valley of the shadow of death, and in that awful hour, he looks around for some one he loves, to sooth the agonies of his soul, but he looks in vain :

“ The grave’s dark shadow steals upon his sight ;  
Friendless and alone he sinks, and falls ! and  
Death’s eternal sleep, his only, last embrace.”

These prisoners, who have transgressed the laws of their country, are still human beings ; they are all more or less susceptible of kind treatment ; they

have a sense of natural justice about them ; they feel that the punishment inflicted is far beyond what is due to the crimes they have committed. A spirit of revenge is first cherished in their bosoms against their keepers ; they next become dejected and almost broken-hearted under the merciless castigations which they see inflicted every day around them ; their constitutions fail, or, if they survive the term of their imprisonment, they come out objects, fit only for the charity workhouse.

While I listened to the narrative told me by this man, I had occasion to put some questions to him, and I noticed when I spoke that he gave an involuntary shudder. I asked him the cause, and he said that for fourteen long years he had never heard a human voice except his keeper's, and even *his* voice he had scarcely ever heard unless it was to order him to strip and be flogged.

Among the passengers there is a young lady who belongs to the sect called Universalists. This sect is very numerous in America ; they have about 600 congregations, consisting of nearly 600,000 souls in the States. The leading doctrine they inculcate is the love of God. In many churches there is the following inscription in front of the pulpit, " GOD IS LOVE." The Universalists believe in universal salvation. They hold " that to

know the true God and Jesus Christ is life eternal ; and as all shall know him, from the least to the greatest, consequently that knowledge or belief will dispel, or save all from the darkness, distress, and fear, which are attendant upon guilt and unbelief ; and being perfectly holy, they shall consequently be perfectly and eternally happy.”

After dinner I got into conversation with a traveller from Prague, on the continent of Europe. He informed me that at one time of his life he had been a martyr to Tic-Douloureux ; all kinds of medicine had been tried in vain, till at length, hearing of the wonderful cures effected with cold water, by a humble peasant at Gräefenberg, in Silesia, he went there, and put himself under his treatment, and was perfectly restored to health.

This wonderful man, who performs seeming miracles by the aid of cold water alone, is named Vincent Priessnitz. He was born on the 4th October 1799, at Gräefenberg, in Silesia ; he is the son of the farmer who cultivated the land upon which his present establishment is placed. The education he received was very limited. He is said to have received his first ideas on the subject from an old man in his neighbourhood who was in the practice of curing cattle with cold water.

M. Priessnitz maintains that a state of health is the natural condition of the body, and that all kinds of diseases are produced by foreign matters absorbed or introduced into the system, and that disease assumes an acute form when the system makes an effort to drive out the bad humours of the body. He holds that fever is caused by the system exerting itself to expel the diseased matter, and that it can only be extirpated by dissolving the diseased matter by the agency of water. The cold water treatment is the simplest of all medicines, and is in the power of every human being. Every curable disease incident to the human frame is said to be dispelled by the agency of cold spring water, air, and exercise alone. This is a startling announcement, and the grand question comes to be, Is it true or false? If it is false, let the faculty expose its fallacy, and put it down at once; but if the announcement is true, and I confess, after having studied all the works on the subject, that I am a firm believer in the cold water cure—why should not the healing virtues of this inestimable beverage be made known over the whole world? At Gräefenberg, in Silesia, several thousand patients, labouring under different diseases, have been cured by M. Priessnitz. The medical faculty may laugh at the simplicity of the cure; they may even,

from mere selfishness, seeing that their craft is in danger, refuse it a fair trial. The members of the healing art may take advantage of its marvellous and incredible effects to cry it down, but let them rest assured the truth will sooner or later prevail, and the Doctor and the Druggist will be left to exclaim, with Othello, "*My* occupation's gone!"

It may be interesting to my readers to give a short sketch of M. Priessnitz's method of applying his cold-water cure, as related by Captain Claridge, in his valuable work on Hydropathy:

"Having at last made up my mind" says Captain Claridge, "to become one of Priessnitz's patients, I was prepared for his coming in the morning. The first thing he did was to request me to strip and go into the large cold bath, where I remained two or three minutes. On coming out he gave me instructions, which I pursued as follows:—At four o'clock in the morning my servant folded me in a large blanket, over which he placed as many things as I could conveniently bear, so that no external air could penetrate. After perspiration commenced it was allowed to continue for an hour; he then brought a pair of straw shoes, wound the blanket close about my body, and in this state of perspiration I

descended to a large cold bath, in which I remained three minutes, then dressed, and walked until breakfast, which was composed of milk, bread, butter, and strawberries, (the wild strawberry in this country grows in abundance from the latter end of May until late in October.) At ten o'clock I proceeded to the douche, under which I remained four minutes, returned home, and took a sitz and foot-bath, each for fifteen minutes; dined at one o'clock."

"At four proceeded again to the douche; at seven repeated the sitz and foot-baths; retired to bed at half-past nine, previously having my feet and legs bound up in cold wet bandages. I continued this treatment for three months, and during that time walked about 1000 miles. Whilst thus subjected to the treatment, I enjoyed more robust health than I had ever done before; the only visible effect that I experienced was an eruption on both my legs, but which, on account of the bandages, produced no pain. It is to these bandages, the perspiration, and the baths, that I am indebted for the total departure of my rheumatism."

"My family have all proved the beneficial effects of Mr Priessnitz's treatment. The night before our departure, the patients gave their annual ball,

in the great room of the establishment, in commemoration of Mr Priessnitz's birth-day. The whole of the buildings belonging to him were illuminated, both inside and out, at their expense. In this assembly, consisting of about 500 persons, no stranger would have believed, had he been unacquainted with the fact, that its members were chiefly composed of invalids. Tears were frequently observed to steal from the eyes of many who blessed the great man for their restoration to health ; and I do not know a more touching scene than seeing invalids, who, by his means, had regained the use of their limbs, approach him, throw their crutches at his feet, and join in the maze of the waltz. Monarchs might have envied him his feelings on such occasions."

"Among the advantages of a water-cure establishment," says Mr Wilson in his practical treatise on this interesting subject, "are the removal of the patient from all *business, care, and temptation*, that can interfere with the cure, and his return to a healthy state. The patient goes to bed early and gets up early, and it is essential, during the cure, that the mind be left as unemployed as possible. Water has *an action of its own*, and as peculiarly its own as that of mercury, quinine, or any other drug. The grand distinction of the



‘water cure’ from all others is, that the whole constitution is repaired, and all diseased states, however complicated, *radically* removed. As long as any thing remains wrong, water will *not cease* to produce evident effects ; when all is in a healthy state, and working in harmony, no very evident effect can be perceived or produced.”

The means by which Mr Priessnitz effects his cold water cures are in the first place the sweating process : a blanket is placed on the bed, and the patient is laid upon the blanket, which is brought straight round the neck and other parts of the body ; then another blanket is rolled round the patient, and then another and another, till about seven or eight are added, and a feather-bed over all. Perspiration generally breaks out in about three quarters of an hour, when cold water is given in a tea-pot for the patient to drink, and it is necessary to drink three or four half-pint tumblers for the purpose of throwing out the heat and encouraging the perspiration. The length of time the patients are permitted to perspire depends entirely upon the strength of their constitution ; the stronger the patient the longer may he be kept in a state of perspiration. The coverings are then taken off, and the patient is washed with cold water on the face, the chest,

and the shins ; and with a blanket wrapped tightly round him, he is conducted to the bath. Care should be taken to throw cold water over the head, shoulders, and chest, to prevent congestion. He is then to plunge into the cold bath, remaining from one to three minutes according to his strength, after which he is rubbed dry with coarse towels.

The next process is the wet sheet, which acts in the same way as a tepid bath. A linen sheet is dipped in cold water and well rung out, then placed on the bed ; the patient lies down at full length on his back on the wet sheet, which is rolled round him above the collar bones, and over the feet ; a blanket is next rolled round him, and over all a feather bed. The patient is kept in this state for from half-an-hour to an hour, or longer according to circumstances. The sensation at first is cold and very disagreeable, but this feeling soon passes away, and is followed by a very pleasant sensation, producing a very soothing effect on the system. Gradually the body becomes cold, and the sheet warm, and after a time both the sheet and the body become warm. When this takes place the cold bath is administered to the patient, and a walk, followed by several draughts of cold water, finishes the wet sheet process. In addition to these

are the wet bandage, the douche, the foot-bath, and the head-bath, a detailed account of which will be found in Mr Wilson's "Practical treatise on the cure of diseases by water, air, exercise, and diet," to which I respectfully refer my readers.

In speaking of the judicious use of water, Mr Wilson observes, "There is no agent applied to the human body, externally or internally, that has such influence in awakening all the vital powers to their greatest restorative capabilities, in arresting the progress of disease, or preventing, when inevitable, a fatal termination, as pure cold water. It is the most powerful therapeutical agent we possess, the most manageable in its application, the most easily obtained, and the most *certain* in its results. So varied are the modes in which it can be applied, that there is no remedy that can be made to produce so many diversified and opposite effects; a stimulant, a sedative, a diuretic, a sudorific, a derivative, &c., and a *cleanser* and *restorative* in the fullest sense of the terms. Unchaining all the powers of the constitution, giving nature a genial impetus, and leaving uncurbed her desire and efforts to heal; and all this without the necessity of straining any individual function; and after its most mighty results in the *most acute and dreaded diseases*, leaving behind no trace of its operation,

no mark or after suffering to point out where or how its power hath been exercised—a conqueror without bloodshed—the giver of sound constitutions without levying a tribute—A DIVINE AND UNIVERSAL REMEDY!—universal in its application—universally dispensed for the use of all mankind—and, in days to come, destined to be universally placed at the head of all remedies.”

It is an old adage that prevention is better than cure, and I am of opinion that mankind, by adopting a natural mode of living, might, in ordinary circumstances, enjoy a perfect state of health; but so much the reverse of this is the case, that Abernethy asserted, that in all London there was not a *perfectly* healthy inhabitant. Let a person who is desirous of enjoying *perfect health* have his habitation in the country, or at least a short distance from a city, and where the air is pure. It is necessary that his bed-room be large and airy: let him rise every morning at six o'clock; drink one or two tumblers of cold water as soon as he is up; sponge his whole body well with cold water; rub dry, and use the flesh-brush till there is a comfortable glow over the surface of the body; let him then take a walk of two or three miles before breakfast; he is on no account to partake of *hot tea or coffee*, but let him use milk and brown bread

for breakfast : dine early on roast or boil, avoiding all high seasoned food and hot drinks ; *abstain altogether from all intoxicating liquors* ; drink only cold water ; take porridge, or brown bread and milk for supper, about an hour before bed time ; read a chapter in the Bible and go to bed *with a good conscience* at ten o'clock. Try this method for a *twelvemonth*, and I am confident that you will feel your health better than ever it was before.

While on the subject of the cold water system, it may not perhaps be out of place to introduce the following hymn, which is highly popular in this country among the Members of the Total Abstinence Societies.

#### COLD WATER HYMN.

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In Eden's green retreats,  
A water brook that play'd  
Between soft mossy seats,  
Beneath a plane-tree's shade,  
Whose rustling leaves  
Danc'd o'er its brink,  
Was Adam's drink,  
And also Eve's.

Beside the parent spring  
Of that young brook, the pair  
Their morning chaunt would sing ;  
And Eve to dress her hair

Kneel on the grass  
That fring'd its side,  
And make its tide  
Her looking glass.

And when the man of God  
From Egypt led his flock,  
They thirsted, and his rod  
Smote the Arabian rock,  
And forth a rill  
Of water gush'd,  
And on they rush'd,  
And drank their fill.

Would Eden thus have smil'd  
Had *wine* to Eden come ?  
Would Horeb's parching wild  
Have been refreshed with *rum* ?  
And had Eve's hair  
Been dress'd in *gin*,  
Would she have been  
Reflected fair ?

Had Moses built a still,  
And dealt out to that host  
To every man his gill,  
And pledged him in a toast—  
How large a band  
Of Israel's sons  
Had laid their bones  
In Canaan's land ?

“ Sweet fields beyond death’s flood  
“ Stand dress’d in living green,”  
For, from the throne of God,  
To freshen all the scene,  
A river rolls,  
Where all who will  
May come and fill  
Their crystal bowls.

If Eden’s strength and bloom  
*Cold water* thus hath given,  
If e’en beyond the tomb  
It is the drink of heav’n,  
Are not *good wells*,  
And *crystal springs*,  
The very things  
For our *hotels* ?

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To return to the subject of my wanderings. At five P. M. we came in sight of Rochester, where I left the boat, and took up my lodgings at an Inn by the side of the canal. The town is situated on the east and west side of the Genesee river, just seven miles distant from Lake Ontario. The falls of the Genesee river, two of which are within the limits of the town, mark this place out as peculiarly adapted for manufacturing purposes.

14th June. I did not leave Rochester till noon, when I recommenced my travels in the packet-boat. I slept on board. Two tier of beds were

made up in the cabin, where the heat and the confined air made me pass a restless night.

15th June. We came to Syracuse about mid-day. This town has the same busy, bustling, commercial appearance, as we meet with generally in the States. The manufacture of salt is the chief employment of the inhabitants.

16th June. Passed Utica early this morning, and as I had already travelled between Albany and Utica, on my way to upper Canada, the country had lost its novelty, and the time hung somewhat heavily on my hands. To make it pass more merrily away, I got my gun on deck, and amused myself by shooting at the birds on the banks of the canal. The packet stopped at Schenectady, between seven and eight P. M., and I took up my abode for the night, at an Inn close to the canal.

17th June. Started at eight A. M. by the railway for Albany; found a steam-boat at Albany ready to start; took my passage in her, and by six P. M. on the following day I landed at New York, and took up my lodgings at Mr Field's boarding-house, in Pearl street.



## CHAPTER VII.

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“ Is there as ye sometimes tell us,  
Is there one who reigns on high?  
Has he bid ye buy and sell us,  
Speaking from his throne the sky?”

THIS country is said to be the paradise of women, and indeed they have managed to assume an imposing attitude, which has inverted the order of things. No man wishes more than I do, to see a proper respect paid to the ladies. As the weaker vessels, they are objects of our kindness and sympathy. Their modest demeanour commands our esteem, and their sylph-like forms, and the graces that surround them, render them the objects of our affections. The New York gentlemen, however, in the spirit of overstrained gallantry, have given them more than all this. They have bowed their

necks beneath the female yoke. Females here, do not look up to man for his respect ; they claim it as an homage due to them. They look like beings accustomed to command, and let you be as kind as ever you will to a female, she thinks it no more than her due.

If you are riding in a coach, and a female of the lowest class enters it, you must resign your seat to her. It is demanded as her right. Some of the Americans ridicule the English for allowing a Queen to reign over them, but they (poor hen-pecked creatures) are all subject to the despotism of a petticoat government. The clergy who have long seen the influence of the American ladies, have joined their cause, which has greatly strengthened it. If a political change is to be brought about in the condition of the negro population, it is the combined forces of the ladies and the clergy who effect it. If intemperance is to be arrested, they are the prime movers in it. If a Methodist minister is to be acquitted, although believed guilty of murder, they can achieve it. In fact they are omnipotent.

The ladies in their persons are in general tall, thin, and lanky, with contracted chests, and little or no *bustle* ! Their faces, when young, are very pretty indeed. If they have any blemish at all, it

is that they are too pale, but they certainly do not improve themselves by calling in art to assist nature, as they too often do, bedaubing their cheeks and necks with powdered starch, over which they occasionally put a thin coating of rouge. They are made up with hollow-breasted stays, and other nameless articles of dress, that makes it impossible for one even to guess at their shapes, so that it has been truly observed,

“ Thus finished in taste while on her you gaze  
You may take the dear charmer for life ;  
But never undress her, for out of her stays  
You’ll find you have lost half your wife.”

There are above 20,000 coloured people in this city, chiefly employed as servants in unloading ships, and in other menial occupations. They are said to be very depraved in their morals, which is in a great measure owing to the want of education ; for although the Americans say that the negroes are inferior in intellect to themselves, yet, until the negroes receive as good an education as they do, and are allowed the privilege of mixing in society with the whites, a true estimate of their abilities cannot be formed.

I observed very few dogs on the streets of New York. On inquiring the cause, I learned that

some years ago, several dogs had gone mad, and a reward of a dollar was in consequence given, by order of the Mayor, for the head of every dog taken to the police office; and the negroes had therefore killed all they found running loose, for the sake of the reward.

Whisky is very cheap. It is sold wholesale at ten pence per gallon. A man can get himself reasonably drunk for three-half-pence, and dead drunk for two-pence, with straw for a bed into the bargain.

Tobacco is much used here. The chief method of consuming it is by chewing, and a great deal of spitting consequently takes place. From long habit many of the Americans cannot refrain from this filthy practice even in places where it is highly improper. An anecdote is told of a certain Dutch governor, who happened to visit a fine lady with a very fine drawing room, and who found, *for reasons unknown to him*, an elegant japanned box placed beside his chair. Seated in form, the quid began to roll, and the lady to tremble for her Brussels. The great man looked askance at the little box, and then gravely discharged his shower on the other side on the carpet. Nothing dismayed, the lady preserved her temper, and by an adroit pedestrian movement transferred the article to what

seemed to be the favourite side. Anon the mouth of the Dutchman filled : again he looked, and perceiving the change so ingeniously effected, with the most perfect simplicity exclaimed,—“ *Really, madam, if you don't put away that pretty box, I guess I'll spit in it.*”

I recommend emigrants, particularly those who have little command over themselves, to join a Total Abstinence Society on their arrival. I am convinced those societies have been the salvation of thousands. Indeed I consider it a credit to belong to such a society, and am convinced, that it is not only the duty of every Christian parent to forbid the use of intoxicating liquors in his family, but that all well-thinking people ought to use every lawful means in their power to put a stop to the causes and practises of intemperance. Drinking ardent spirits is much more hurtful to the constitution in America than it is in Europe, and ought to be guarded against, as, after a person has indulged to excess in the use of spirits, it is very difficult indeed to reclaim him. A preacher, descanting on the impossibility of the drunkard retracing his steps, after he had gone a certain length, made use of the following strong simile : “ My brethren, it is a very easy task to

row a boat over the falls of Niagara, but an all sufficient job to row it back again."

Fires are very frequent here. Hardly a night passes without one. I was present at two great fires, both of which took place in Pearl Street. At the first fire, two of the firemen lost their lives by the floor falling in unexpectedly. They were both much lamented by their fellow-citizens, and their remains were honoured by a funeral procession. The fire-engine department is very efficient; the services of the engine men being gratuitous, it is reckoned a most honourable service. The men are very daring and often risk their lives in a reckless manner.

I find the shop-keepers far from being civil. They reckon strangers fair plunder, and as a vast multitude of them pass through New York, bound to all parts of the interior, who never revisit it again, and who have no opportunity of exposing their roguery, the shop-keepers have it in their power to give their visitors what they term "a pretty close shave."

On the 9th, 10th, and 11th of July, the heat became so intense that it was almost insupportable. During those three days many people dropped down dead from the effects of it. Indeed the heat

here is so great, that even in the shade, and when not exposed to exertion, the body acquires so undue a temperature, that the perspiration gushes from every part of it, and, in such circumstances, persons ignorant of the animal economy are subjected to great risks by drinking water or other cold beverage ; for in the instance of which I speak, it was not uncommon for a person who had partaken freely of cold water, to fall down a corpse. A number of emigrants who had just landed, experiencing intense thirst from the state of the atmosphere, in passing one of the wells, drank copiously of the water, and six or eight of them dropped down dead before they had left the spot. After this, bills were posted in the streets intimating the danger of incautiously drinking cold water, headed thus, “ Beware ! why will ye drink and die.” So strong is the feeling with relation to this matter, that any person entering a house, and asking for a draught of water, gets, as a matter of course along with it, a portion of spirit without any charge.

In most of the churches in New York, the men and women sit apart, one portion of the church being allotted to the men, and another to the women. A jealous separation also takes place between the whites and the blacks. Even when the slightest tinge of the African is perceptible

in any one, he is restricted to the pews set apart for the coloured people. It would be well if these *proud Americans* would keep in mind the precious words of the Gospel, which declare that “*in Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Gentile, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, nor free ;*” but, on the contrary, they continue the separation, even after death, and coloured bodies are denied a corner in the usual place of repose for the dead ; it has been said that they would deny their souls a place in heaven, if they had it in their power.

Some of the shops are open on Sunday. The steam-boats ply that day the same as usual, and the taverns and bar-rooms are crowded with company ; in the evening public concerts are held, and lectures are given, some of which openly profess to teach infidelity, and I am sorry to say they are very well attended by the free-born citizens of both sexes.

I have been much amused with the cant terms in use here, but as it would require far too great space to attempt to give all I heard, I shall merely note down a few of them : When they say “ I guess,” they mean “ I know.” Instead of saying “ how do you do ?” they say “ how do you get along ?” They talk about a person having “ cleared out,” meaning that he has “ run away from his



country." A young lady talks of her "wires," meaning "her legs," and says she is going to "fix herself," when she proposes dressing. "Going a head" means "succeeding in business." "Going the whole hog" is to do any thing completely.

The coloured people in New York are ridiculously fond of dress. The men may be seen on Sunday promenading at the Battery dressed as dandies of the first order; their coats are so open that their shirts are not only visible in any quantity at the breast, but may also be seen under their arm-pits. They look, with their white kid gloves, coloured vests, and a cane in their hand, as if they thought themselves irresistible. This love of dress appears to be the besetting weakness of the African race; had it been confined to the female sex it might have been overlooked, but the same excess pervades both.

I am told it is not an uncommon occurrence for a negro in the United States to dispose of himself by sale. The negro agrees with the Captain of a vessel, bound perhaps to Cuba, to go out in the ship with him, and, on arrival, the Captain sells him for 500 or 600 dollars, the Captain and the negro dividing the money equally between them. When the vessel sails, the negro is taken off the island by another vessel, as previously arranged, and he re-

turns to the United States with a portion of the price of himself in his pocket.

The great blot on the American character is slavery. That it should be suffered to exist among men who wish to be regarded by other nations as the freest in the world, is a reproach and a disgrace, and must everywhere raise the finger of scorn to their declaration of independence. In this boasted land of liberty they declare all men are born equal, and yet no less than two millions, three hundred human beings are condemned to hopeless slavery. In this land of liberty slavery is hereditary; even though the father be a *free-born citizen of America*, his offspring, by a slave mother, are born to slavery; nay, parents often sell their own children.

Slavery is the *plague-spot* of America. Her citizens, setting at nought the precepts of our Saviour to do to others as we would wish others to do to us, send forth their ships under the stained flags of Spain and Portugal, like thieves in the night, to the coast of Africa for a freight of human beings. Men and women are bought and sold in the human shambles every hour of the day.

To be a coloured person is no enviable lot in America. A poor coloured man in the district of Columbia, was taken up on suspicion of being a

slave ; he was advertised as such, but no one came forward to claim him, yet, instead of the poor man being set at liberty, he was put up to public auction, and *sold to be a slave for life to pay his jail fees.*

*A great proportion of the American clergy are slaveholders.* Many of them draw part of their stipend from the labour of slaves. Those clergymen disgrace the religion they teach by mixing themselves up with the ungodly traffic ; by holding slaves they virtually lend the sanction of their names to the practice of putting human beings under the hammer of an auctioneer, and knocking them down to the highest bidder. Those clergymen, whose duty it is to teach the doctrine of Christian love, are themselves the holders of slaves ; slaves whose spirits are sunk in the lowest depths of misery ; slaves whose spirits are broken and brutalised, and whose dread of the lash is only equalled by their spirit of revenge against their oppressors. Those clergymen keep the slaves ignorant, because they know that slavery and knowledge cannot exist together ; if you teach a slave to read, he may perhaps see a copy of the famous declaration of independence that “ *all men are born equal,*” and he might read, that “ *resistance to tyrants is obe-*

dience to God ; and that if the Americans deemed themselves justified in resisting to blood the payment of a three-penny tea-tax and a stamp duty, how much more, upon the same principles, would the slave be justified, in cutting his master's throat, to obtain deliverance from personal thralldom ?”

Of the depravity that must prevail where slavery exists, an example is given by M. Abdy in his *Tour in the United States* :—“ A black Baptist Minister of the name of Andrew Marshall, and supposed to be worth 30,000 or 40,000 dollars, was living at Savannah with his wife and children, the latter, with their mother, were his slaves. A planter in the neighbourhood solicited this man's daughter to live with him. She refused, and, when urged by her father to accept the offer, alleged, as a reason for not complying with their joint importunities, that her affections were engaged to a coloured man, whom she had promised to marry. Her plea and her entreaties were equally unavailing. Her father sold her to the less guilty seducer ; and she is living with her master ; having had a family of nine children by him—all slaves, destined to share the fate of their mother, and be sold perhaps in the same way by their father.”

It has already been noticed by M. Abdy, “ that there are upwards of two millions and a half of

slaves in North America, and of these at least one hundred thousand change hands annually ; the slaves are driven like cattle in couples to be sold in the New Orleans Market."

" By the laws of Maryland the child of a white woman, by a negro or mulatto, is to be put out to service till the age of twenty-one, and the mother to forfeit £10 to the State, and to be publicly whipped by thirty-nine stripes on her bare back, well laid on, at the common whipping-post, besides standing in the pillory for two hours. The father, in addition to the whipping, to have one ear nailed to the pillory. White men connected with negresses to be fined £20, and to receive twenty-one lashes at the common whipping-post. In some of the slave states, it is a capital offence in a coloured man to cohabit with a white woman. A man was hanged not long ago for this crime at New Orleans. The partner of his guilt—his master's daughter—endeavoured to save his life, by avowing that she alone was to blame. She died shortly after his execution ; he was a remarkably handsome quadroon."

The Newspapers in the Southern States abound with advertisements of negroes for sale, and with rewards for the apprehension of run-away slaves.

I here insert a few of them, to shew the working of the system :

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CASH FOR ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NEGROES.

We will pay the highest prices in cash for one hundred and fifty likely young negroes, of both sexes, families included. Persons wishing to sell will do well to give us a call, as we are permanently settled in this market. All communications will meet attention, &c. &c.

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NOTICE.

Will be sold, at the prison of Washington, county district of Columbia, on Saturday the 12th day of April next, *for her prison fees and other expenses*, A NEGRO GIRL, who calls herself Sarah Ann Robinson, committed as a run-away slave. She is of light complexion, and about five feet high. She has no particular scars, except a hair-lip. Sale to take place at Hocklock Inn, &c. &c.

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TWENTY DOLLARS REWARD.

Run away from the subscriber, about the 25th November last, A Negro Woman, named Matilda. She is a little above the common size of women, of a brown complexion, and about twenty-five

years old. It is thought that she may be somewhere up James' River, or lurking about the basin, *as she was claimed as a wife* by some boatman in Goochland. The above reward will be paid on her delivery at the jail, &c. &c.

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A CARD.

A. B. wishes to inform the owners of negroes in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, that he is not dead, as has been artfully represented by his opponents, but that he still lives to give them CASH, and the highest prices for their negroes. Persons having negroes to dispose of, will please give him a chance, &c. &c.

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M. Abdy observes, that "all slaves long for their freedom, and are discontented with their lot; and forged papers of freedom are often obtained from white men, who make it a business to sell them to the slaves. Detection is impossible, as the matter is arranged through the medium of free blacks, who take care never to be seen by any other *white* man than the scrivener. All other evidence against the latter would be rejected; and every attempt to prevent or to punish these practices, serves only to increase their number, by

binding still closer the tie that connects the offender with his clients."

The farmers in the neighbourhood of Washington breed slaves as our graziers breed cattle for the market ; and a mother's agony for the loss of her child is no more regarded than the lowing of a cow for the calf that is carried off to be fattened by the butcher.

"It is not sufficient for the national dishonour," says M. Abdy, "that the district marked out for the residence and immediate jurisdiction of the general government should be polluted by slavery. Here, under the eyes of Congress—in defiance of public opinion, and as if courting the observation of assembled multitudes, legislators, and ambassadors—a traffic, the most base and revolting, is carried on by a set of ruffians, with whom it would be the greatest injustice to compare our resurrection-men, or even the infamous Burke & Hare. They are called slave-traders, and their occupation is to kidnap every coloured stranger they can lay their hands on, no matter whether he be free or not. His papers, if he chance to have any, and they can get at them, are taken from him ; and he is hurried to jail, from whence, under pretence that the documents he has in his possession are not satisfactory, or



that he is unable to pay the expenses of his arrest and detention, *he is sent off to the Southern Market.* Men, women, and children, indiscriminately, who come to Washington in search of employment, or to visit their friends, are liable to be carried off by these land sharks, and it is a common belief that proprietors of slaves would be ungrateful if they did not connive at the iniquities of the kidnappers. The net that is laid for the unfriended free coloured man is pretty sure to catch the run-away. These villains deal with the drivers and agents, and sometimes with the planters themselves."

"A poor fellow, whose claims to freedom were pronounced defective, was purchased by one of them not long ago for a dollar, and sold next day for four hundred. About the same time, a coloured young woman was entering the city from the country, when she was pursued by one of these blood-hounds, and, to escape, threw herself into the river and was drowned; no notice was taken of this horrible occurrence by the public papers, though it was a matter of notoriety. Another woman, to save her children, who would all have been doomed to slavery, if her claims to freedom had been rejected, precipitated herself from the top of a house where she was confined,

and was so dreadfully mutilated and mangled that she was suffered to escape because she was no longer fit for sale. There was no doubt that she was a free woman; but she knew that a whole family of young slaves was too valuable a property not to turn the scale against her."

It is customary when a sufficient number of slaves is obtained by the traffickers in this horrid business, to send them to the South under the care of the "soul-drivers" as they are called, who receive so much per head.

"All slaves," says M. Abdy, "are alive to the injustice done to them, and when irritated, tell their owners openly that they have no right to the labour they force out of them. Some will rather suffer death than be separated from the objects of their affections. Their firmness is so well known, that a resolution to this effect, when once pronounced, will deter any one at a sale from purchasing them separately. When standing at a table to be sold, they often cry out to any one who is known for his cruelty, 'you may buy me, for power is in your hands, but I will never work for you.' One woman exclaimed to a Planter notorious for his barbarity, 'buy me if you please, but I tell you openly, if I become your slave, *I will cut your throat the first opportunity.*' The man

trembled with rage and fear ; the latter was the stronger—and he shrank from the bidding.”

Such facts as these are very humbling to the free-born American white skins, or pale faces, as the Indians call them. The injuries and injustice that the poor sons of Africa receive from them, will not pass unpunished by an avenging God, in whose sight this great national sin is committed. It is far from improbable, that, in the event of a war, the enemies of America may arm the slaves in the South against their masters, the consequences of which, at such a time, it is fearful to contemplate. The best way to avert such a calamity is for all the States to abolish slavery, and from henceforth to treat the poor despised Africans as Christian brethren.

The Americans are very averse to take away life judicially. Captain Marryat relates an instance of this which took place just before his arrival at New York :—“ A young man of the name of Robinson, who was a clerk in an importing house, had formed a connexion with a young woman on the town of the name of Ellen Jewit. Not having the means to meet her demands upon his purse, he had for many months embezzled from the store goods to a very large amount, which she had sold to supply her wants and wishes. At last Robin-

son, probably no longer caring for the girl, and aware that he was in her power, determined upon murdering her. Such accumulated crime can hardly be conceived ! He went to sleep with her, made her drunk with champagne before they retired to bed, and then, as she lay in bed, murdered her with an axe, which he had brought with him from his master's store. The house of ill fame in which he visited her, was at that time full of other people of both sexes, who had retired to rest—it is said nearly one hundred were there on that night—so much for American morality—thoughtless of the danger to which they were exposed. Fearful that the murder of the young woman would be discovered and brought home to him, the miscreant resolved to set fire to the house, and by thus sending unprepared into the next world so many of his fellow-creatures, escape the punishment which he had merited in this. He set fire to the bed upon which his unfortunate victim lay, and having satisfied himself that his work was securely done, locked the door of the room, and quitted the premises. A merciful Providence, however, directed otherwise : the fire was discovered, the flames extinguished, and his crime made manifest. The evidence in an English Court would have been more than sufficient to convict him ; but in America

such is the feeling against taking life, that, strange to say, Robinson was acquitted, and permitted to leave for Texas, where it is said he still lives under a false name."

The Americans born in the New England States are nicknamed Yankees, and many of them have the character of being the greatest rogues to be met with anywhere. Instances of their trickery are told which display great ingenuity. For example, sausages have been brought to market, which, when purchased and prepared for frying, were found to be filled with chopped turnip and shreds of red flannel mixed together; and wooden nutmegs have been sold for the genuine article. A Yankee is always "cut and dry for business." If he thinks he can make money by any speculation, there is nothing he will not turn his hand to. When the cholera broke out in New York, one of this class of speculating geniuses, calculating that it would reach New Orleans, and, from the unhealthy nature of the place, cause there great mortality, immediately chartered a vessel, which he loaded with coffins. The cargo, when landed, caused considerable astonishment to the inhabitants, but the cholera quickly following, made dreadful ravages, and the Yankee's consignment brought high prices, and proved a profitable affair;

but unfortunately for this splendid Speculator, on calling to take the measure of one of his cholera customers, he caught the disease himself, died in four hour's illness, and now lies deposited in one of his own coffins in a church-yard at New Orleans.

Of all men on the face of this fair and beautiful world, the Yankees are the least scrupulous as to the means of getting money.

"A Yankee whose great-grandfather came from Scotland, was left several hundred dozen of boxes of ointment, celebrated for curing a disease common at one time in Scotland, so he resolved on taking a tour through the country to dispose of his ointment. He visited many towns and offered his medicine for sale, but the disease being unknown he could get no buyers : he was puzzled what to do ; at last a bright idea struck him. He sought out, among the Scotch Emigrants lately arrived, a person labouring under the disease, and inoculated himself with it. After giving the disease time to be sufficiently virulent, he went round the towns again, and, taking advantage of the American custom which is so prevalent, shook hands with every body whom he had spoken to on his former visit, declaring he was '*tarnal glad* to see them again ;' thus he went on till his circuit was

completed, when he repaired to the first town again, and found that his ointment, as he expected, was now in great request; and he continued his route as before, until he had sold all the boxes in his possession."

The Americans would fain be thought a very moral nation. The ladies have a society called "The New York Female Moral Society," which has been nick-named, "The Patent Anti-Fornication Society," and they have lately established a Society to regulate the conjugal relations, named "The Conjugal Temperance Privilege Society." The members are all married women, and they lord it over the hen-pecked Roosters of the half-horse and half-aligator creation, in a way that can be more easily imagined than described. *O tempora! O Moses!*

What a contrast this is to the unmarried ladies here, who are so extremely delicate that they would sooner die than name some common articles of wearing apparel; and they are so shocked at the idea of legs, that they put trowsers on the legs of even their piano-fortes, lest the sight of them might call up, by association, the idea that they themselves were gifted with such indelicate appendages. If one of these supernaturally-delicate females has a pain in her abdomen, she is sure to

call it a pain in her breast, which tends much to embarrass her medical attendant; and as for that shocking article called a shirt, if caught in the act of making one, she sews it up at the bottom, and tells her male visitor it is a bag.

I must now bid my fair friends adieu. I hope before I leave this world to visit them once more, and I trust, when I again behold the lovely creatures, that the *unnatural false modesty* which at present prevails, may have given place to that true virgin modesty which is the brightest ornament of their sex.

I sailed from New York on the 15th July, on board the ship —, bound for Greenock. I had a most agreeable passage of twenty-one days; and on the 6th August landed at Greenock, and proceeded to Glasgow by the first steamer.

I stopped at the Argyle Hotel all night, and took the coach at ten A. M. next morning, for Auld Reekie.











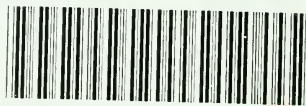


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